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Playground and Recreation

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Our Folk School

By Mrs. Carey J. Ellis

Recreation and Social Case Work

Leadership in Play in America

By Thomas E. Jones

An Experimental Playground in India

Tom Sawyer Day at Waikiki Beach

By Arthur K. Powlison

Suggestions for Thanksgiving Parties and for the Home Gathering

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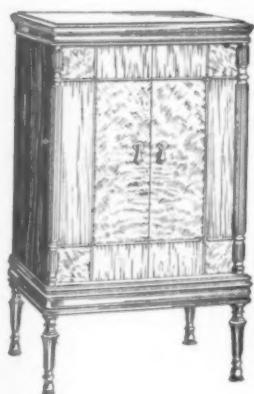
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Playground and Recreation

World at Play

Play Areas for Zurich, Switzerland.—The *Geneva Journal* reports that the voters of the town of Zurich by a vote of 20,256 to 3,662 approved a credit of 2,800,000 francs for setting up a sporting center for games and gymnastics. At the same time they approved, by a vote of 17,365 to 16,135, a credit of 90,000 francs for the purchase of Dolder's field in the seventh district to preserve these stretches of green for play centers.

Studying the Play of African Children.—The *New York Times* of September 18, 1929, tells of the plans of Mrs. Eugenia Akeley to live a year in Equatorial Africa far up the Congo River in order that she may study customs and modes of living of the pigmy natives, particularly regarding the upbringing of children. Mrs. Akeley is especially interested in learning more about the children's games, which she finds extremely ingenious and capable of being adapted or extended for the children of America.

Cooperation with Labor Groups.—The Board of Recreation of Centralia, Illinois, is finding in its cooperation with labor groups one of its most important means of growth. E. H. Chaney, Superintendent of Recreation, was asked to serve as chairman of the committee on arrangements for a Labor Day parade held under the auspices of the Centralia Trade Labor Assembly. A dog parade sponsored and financed by the local Lions' Club was a feature of the general parade.

Publicity for Playgrounds.—One of the publicity channels used last summer in Philadelphia consisted of two bulk head signs which were carried for ten days in 3,600 street cars. These signs called attention to the following facts: "141 Playgrounds Now Open to Philadelphia Children"; "Playgrounds Offer More Fun and Are

Safer than the Streets." Prominent on the sign was the name of the Playgrounds Association and the admonition to "Call Rit. 6548 for Playground Nearest Your Home." The number of telephone calls received testified to the effectiveness of this form of publicity.

Playground Library in Hamilton.—With the cooperation of the library staff, the Playgrounds Association of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, has established a library on each of the three playgrounds. From 200 to 250 books are exchanged each week on every ground. A member of the library staff comes to the playgrounds to take care of the exchange of books and afterward conducts a story hour.

National Small Sculpture Contest.—The National Small Sculpture Committee, 80 East 11th Street, New York City, has announced the sixth annual sculpture competition open to professionals and amateurs, with special classification for children. The contest will close May 1, 1930.

For the participants in the contest the Committee has issued a booklet entitled *About Soap Sculpture*, by Margaret J. Postgate, which may be secured on request.

A Suggestion for Decorating Field Houses.—J. G. Wilson, President of Community Centers, Augusta, Georgia, writes the following:

"We are interested in securing, if possible, pictures of birds, flowers, flowering shrubs, butterflies, and small animals generally regarded as friends of the child, such as rabbits and squirrels. It is our plan to group these pictures in proper divisions and place them on the walls of our playground houses."

Securing Land in Seattle.—The increasing interest in the setting aside of adequate play and

recreation areas and new subdivisions is evidenced by the frequent consideration of this problem by localities throughout the country.

Just recently word has been received that in a resolution passed by the City Council, the City of Seattle has officially gone on record declaring it to be the intention of the City to hereafter consider requiring provision for a play field of adequate size in all plats submitted to it for approval.

Street and Vacant Lot Play.—The question is sometimes asked, "What activities can be promoted in street play?"

The Playgrounds Association of Philadelphia last summer promoted the following projects in their street and vacant lot play:

(1) July 4th Celebration. (2) Box Hockey. (3) Mardi Gras. (4) Pet Shows. (5) Doll Show. (6) Checker Tournament. (7) Hop Scotch Tournament. (8) Baseball Pitching. (9) O'Leary Contest. (10) Lantern Parade. (11) Volley Ball Tournament. (12) Skooter Race. (13) Roller Skate Race. (14) Wagon Race. (15) Doll Village. (16) Jackstones Tournament. (17) Soap Bubbles. (18) Paddle Tennis. (19) Folk Dance Tournament. (20) Dodge Ball Tournament. (21) Track and Field. (22) Beetle Hunt. (23) Knot Hole Club. (24) Quoits.

In addition there were low organized games, storytelling and special entertainments.

A New Playground for Elmira.—By action of the Common Council in approving the purchase of property, the children of the east side of Elmira will have a new playground. A large frame building on the premises will be remodeled and converted into a community house for the residents of the locality.

Municipal Playgrounds of Philadelphia Have a Successful Season.—The Bureau of Recreation of the Department of Public Welfare, Philadelphia, reports that the past summer season has been the most successful the Bureau has ever experienced. Thirty-eight swimming pools and thirty-nine recreation centers and playgrounds were maintained. There was almost a one hundred percent increase in participation in volley ball over 1928. Sixty teams took part in the city-wide tournament played one afternoon, when ten courts were in use at one time. Other city-wide tournaments included baseball for girls, for midget boys and for juniors, jackstones, kites, checkers, quoits and tennis. Specialty Week was a new

feature of the program last summer when each playground selected one particular activity and concentrated on it. Another week was devoted to sand and water carnivals, with boat races of home made boats, novelty events in the pool and sand modeling contests.

Baltimore's Recreation Pier.—The Adult Recreation Department of the Baltimore Playground Athletic League is in charge of the program at the Recreation Pier. A special feature of the pier is a playground for children and older boys and girls which is on the deck. It is fully equipped with playground apparatus and a ball field. Two outstanding events at the recreation pier are the Alley Cat show and the Mutt show for unpedigreed dogs, which has become an annual event.

Lenola Community Center.—Moorestown, New Jersey, has long felt the need for a community center but difficulty has been experienced in finding an adequate building. The public school was out of the question, and other buildings which might have served the purpose could not for one reason or another be secured. Finally in a building owned by the Real Estate Association a partial solution of the problem was found.

The Association consented to give the use of the building until such time as it should be rented. The building, however, was in a dilapidated state and there were still many obstacles to be surmounted. The windows were broken; paper was hanging from the wall; plaster was off; the roof leaked and the floors and woodwork were badly in need of painting.

The first step taken was to install electric lights so that evening activities could get under way. The wiring and fixture installation was done by the Boy Scouts, the Scouts and the Recreation Commission sharing in the payment of the material. After this had been accomplished the need of a local committee to direct and guide the new project arose. A group of citizens was invited to attend an organization meeting and twenty people responded. A permanent organization was effected and thus the Lenola Community Center Association became a reality.

The new organization then set to work raising funds, obtaining furnishings and enlisting volunteer workers to aid with the new building and the leadership of activities. Money was raised by two community card parties, an odds and ends sale and a peach festival. Last came the task of putting

the center into good shape. Woodwork and floors were painted by volunteers; a local resident contributed wall paper and a volunteer hung it; water and lavatory facilities were installed by a local firm at cost price; the furnishings committee worked hard and secured contributions and purchased furniture which turned the house into a most attractive center.

The use of the building is confined to organized groups and supervised activities. Individual organizations are responsible to the committee for the proper care of the building while they are using it. During the winter there will be many activities conducted by the Recreation Department and various other groups.

More Money for Milwaukee Playgrounds.—The Building and Grounds Committee of the Common Council of Milwaukee has approved \$100,000 for the purchase of playgrounds this year. This is in addition to the sum of \$200,000 set up for expenditure but found to be inadequate.

Provo Establishes Year-Round Recreation.—Provo, Utah, has established year-round recreation service for the city and the schools. Fred Dixon has been employed as superintendent of recreation.

A Recreation Commission in Santa Barbara.—Santa Barbara, California, has created a recreation commission of five members and is introducing a year-round program through the operation of seven recreation centers.

In Tacoma, Washington.—Tacoma has completed three new field houses and reports a successful year's work in the operation of seventeen playgrounds, five athletic fields, three beaches and two school plunges. An added attraction is the Hiking Club for boys and girls.

A Gift of Land for Alhambra.—Alhambra, California, has received from F. G. Storey a plot of ground 300'x400' valued at \$25,000. The ground is adjacent to the Alhambra Athletic Club which it is hoped will later become a municipal center.

A Symphony Orchestra for Young People.—The Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department has organized a playground symphony orchestra open to young men and women between the ages of sixteen and thirty.

Unique Trophy for Model Airplane Champion.—A huge silver model of an airport beacon surmounted with red search lights is the unique trophy presented to the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department for use as a permanent honorary award for model airplane championship. This trophy will be awarded each year to the individual playground scoring the most points in model airplane meets.

A Swim Play Day for Women.—Eight events were on the program of the play day for industrial girls promoted by the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department at a downtown plunge. All of these events were fun events rather than competitions. In addition to the regular swimming and diving features there were special stunts including umbrella relays and a water volley ball game.

A Swimming Pool at Englewood, California.—More than 5,000 people of Englewood, California, attended the formal dedication ceremonies of the new swimming pool for children held under the auspices of the Englewood post of the American Legion, many of whose members personally worked on the actual construction of the plunge giving their services free to the project.

A Nature Trail in the Woods of Lynn.—Extending for more than a mile of picturesque hills and dales, a nature trail has been blazed in the Lynn woods under the auspices of the Park Commission. Eventually there will be markers every fifty feet along the trail calling attention to some unusual trend. "The story of the nature trail lies beneath your feet," the visitor is told in the first sign and others follow thick and fast all along the trail.

Elmira Holds Golden Wedding Celebration.—A golden wedding celebration in Brand Park proved a wonderful occasion for fifty Chemung County, N. Y., couples who had been married for at least fifty years. The Elmira Recreation Commission arranged the celebration with its program of addresses, music, entertainment and dances new and old.

A Music Center for Los Angeles.—Exposition Community Club House is to be the center for musical activities for the entire city, according to the Music Division of the Los Angeles, California, Playground and Recreation Department. A large portion of the recently completed recreation building has been set aside as a musical studio

and will serve as headquarters for orchestras, harmonica bands, community singing and symphony groups, and similar organizations.

"Johnstown."—On August 16th the playground children of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, presented with great success a historical pageant entitled "Johnstown." The pageant, written by two of the playground workers, the Misses Anna and Clara Swanson and directed by a former playground leader, Regina Malloy, was given in the stadium. Through the splendid amplification system installed the spoken parts were audible to everyone in the audience.

Thanksgiving Celebration at Sycamore.— "During Thanksgiving we were busy entertaining people from early morning until late at night," writes "Bill" Brown, director of the Memorial Community Center at Sycamore, Illinois. "We started our bowling tournament in the morning, continuing it through the afternoon and early evening. There were eight five-men teams and four five-women teams competing for the championship and high school local organization trophies. Early in the afternoon the various local groups carried out a swimming meet and special stunts and swimming events. A little later came a very creditable novelty indoor track meet with races and contests of every description and participants of all ages. The 200 children were divided into four teams and many games were played. In the evening *The Captain's Dilemma* was put on. It was especially well-acted by members of the young people's dramatic groups, who gave it as the first presentation. Dancing followed."

Closing Demonstration in Beaumont, Texas.—The City Park Department of Beaumont, Texas, chose the title "A Day in the Parks" for the demonstration given on the closing day of the playground season. All the activities of the summer program were shown except handcraft. There was also a presentation of *Pandora*.

The Pied Piper Plays His Tune in Cambridge.—A very successful presentation of the *Pied Piper of Hamelin* was given at the end of August by the playground children of Cambridge, Massachusetts. All the costumes for the rats, merchants and others taking part, as well as all the properties, were made on the playgrounds.

Miami Holds Carnival.—An excellent plan was worked out last winter by the Recreation Department of Miami, Florida, to make it possible for the schools to raise money for playground equipment and supplies. Instead of arranging for each school to have a small carnival in its neighborhood the Recreation Department made use of a large field owned by the city in the central part of the town and for two nights following Thanksgiving sponsored a city-wide carnival.

The field was divided into sections, a hundred feet on a side, and each school was allotted one section to use as it wished in raising money. The entertainment and booths were exceedingly varied. Many schools had booths of all kinds and gave practically a continuous performance. Each school kept all the money which it took in in its particular section. During the coming year the Recreation Department will fence the field and charge ten cents admission. The money raised in this way will be used to reimburse the Department for its expense in lighting the field and preparing the booths.

Volley Ball in Savannah.—The Savannah, Georgia, Board of Recreation has organized a volleyball team for girls and a similar team for boys in each of the eight churches of the city. During the winter the Department, using the gymnasium of the Y. M. C. A. or the high school, conducts two volleyball games simultaneously. On each evening when the games are played the boys and girls from four churches meet and four games are played, the boys and girls alternating. This provides a wholesome athletic and social evening without the strain which accompanies basketball games. It enables the young people to meet and chat and provides escorts home for the girls, young men from their own church and community, socially approved by the girls' parents. It has also been found a means of holding the young people in the churches.

A Suggestion for the Quiet Game Room.— "Foursome" is an adaptation of checkers which makes it possible for four people instead of two to play the game. It is being used by the Recreation Department of Los Angeles and by other groups throughout California. The equipment consists of a playing board, 20"x20" made of strong fiber wood and forty-eight checkers in contrasting colors. Information regarding the game may be secured from the Foursome Company, 1953 Estrella Avenue, Los Angeles, California.



JAMES R. SMART

James R. Smart

In the passing of James R. Smart in July, the Playground and Recreation Association of America lost a friend who cared very deeply for the recreation movement. An Honorary Member of the Association, he had for six years helped with the raising of funds for the national work in the City of Evanston, Illinois, where he resided for thirty-two years. His loyalty and his genial ways endeared him to the workers who knew him. Soon after he became interested in the work he began to refer to the Association as "our" Association, thus making himself truly one of the recreation family.

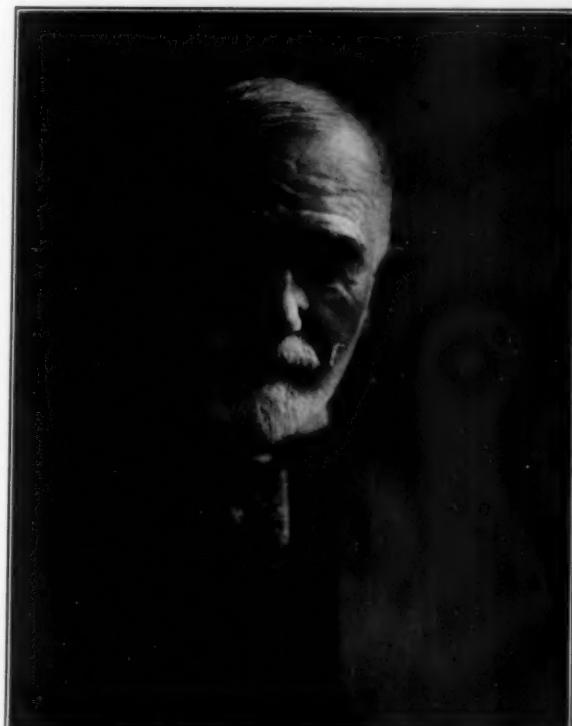
He was devoted always to civic interests, had served as Mayor of Evanston, President of the School Board and of the local and state Real Estate Boards. In these and many other capacities he left the impress of his vigorous but kindly personality upon his home city.

Mr. Smart had that happy capacity of giving himself whole-heartedly to those things that made for the best interests of Evanston, yet seeing, and giving himself to, the needs of the world beyond the city's borders.

Adelbert Moot

In the passing of Adelbert Moot of Buffalo, the Association loses one of its friends and supporters of many years. Mr. Moot, though seventy-four years of age, was ever young at heart. His spirit of play was shared with all who came in contact with him, and privileged were they who with his children and grandchildren spent many happy hours with him.

Mr. Moot served for many years as Vice Chancellor of the State Board of Regents and in addition to his law work in Buffalo was a leading member of the State Bar Association. He was ever willing to give his personal interest and active cooperation to help provide better educational and recreational opportunities for the children of America. By many he was known as The Playground Man of Buffalo and this title, most lovingly conferred, brought to him a deep personal joy. For sixteen continuous years, he generously gave of his time and interest in serving as a sponsor of the Playground and Recreation Association in Buffalo, and since 1923 has been an Honorary Member of the Association. His, the spirit of youth always, and with it he was ever willing to give of himself generously to help provide wholesome and happy leisure hours for others.



Courtesy of Bachrach
ADELBERT MOOT

Our Folk School

MRS. CAREY J. ELLIS

Rayville, Louisiana

The day had arrived!

It was a day we had been working toward for a number of months. At first it seemed dimly in the distance, but now at the end it had come galloping upon us. We had planned deliberately. Our parish is an agricultural one. We had felt that our greatest need was a more prosperous and awakened citizenship. We had felt that a Folk School would be the means of accomplishing this end. A Folk School where people of all classes could meet together and get inspiration to lift them out of their discouragements and awaken in them visions of worthy goals, possible attainment; a school where information would be given as to practical means of attaining these goals; a school where women would be taught home-making, where men would be taught more efficient farming, and the children would have the games, social contact, and exposure to activities that their lives ordinarily lacked.

Had we not been dubbed idealists—impractical to the nth degree? In spite of this sneer we had plodded on and our program had grown apace. Speakers of prominence and specialists in desired professions had been secured for the men and women. We had trained nurses for the babies; for the children we had arranged for kindergarten and nursery school teachers, trained playground workers, professional story tellers, handcraft experts, a conductor for the rhythm orchestras, and playground apparatus that would tempt the most timid as well as the most blasé child. All of this had been financed with a shoe string. I am almost tempted to tell you how little it all cost—but I will not for fear you will misjudge our enterprise! The smallness of the amount is but proof of the willingness to serve which actuated the many people whose efforts made possible the first Folk School.

But what would all this program avail if the "Folks" just didn't come? We had been given to understand by "those who knew" that the countryman was so deeply rooted in his back-

wood environment that we would never up-root him sufficiently to induce him to come to town and "mix up with the city guys." So now that every preparation had been made and the great day had arrived—do you wonder that it was a breath-taking moment?

Two-thirty o'clock was the stated time and by noon they began to arrive—walking, in wagons, on mule back, loaded in school buses, crowded in cars, some of which were a little the worse for wear, others washed shiny for the occasion. Here the people came, great ones, small ones, lean ones, brawny ones, grave old plodders, gay young friskers, fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins, families by 'tens and dozens, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives—nearly 2,000 strong. We had aimed at 1,000—but there were 1,000 children! Do you wonder that we were utterly oblivious to the July sun, but flew around, hither and thither on feet made light by happy hearts? When I tell you that five days later, the closing day, the crowd topped the 3,000 mark, you will believe with us that there must have been some other motive than idle curiosity back of it all! Especially will you be convinced when I tell you that some came forty-five miles each day. The driver who so generously brought in a school bus from his community, giving his services and the use of his bus, told us it was midnight when he'd get to bed—a shocking hour for a plodding farmer!

The costumes may have been of interest to a collector of odd bits of apparel, some hats may have resembled last year's bird's nest, but the eager, hungry, expectant faces made it impossible to see anything else. Some of these women had not left their homes for a number of years. One woman said she did not take a paper, nor a magazine. She didn't have a car to go anywhere. She did not have the clothes to wear, somehow she'd lost the desire. Such stagnation in this hurly, burly day of speed, such hopelessness in this day of thrills brings a pang. When we realize that this woman is no gloomy, isolated exception—that she is almost typical of a certain class, that pang remains. She had had her day of youth and romance. It was then she married the coun-

Note: The Rayville Folk School described in this article was held in Rayville, Louisiana, July 15-19. This school was the first of its kind ever held in this section of the country.

try boy who became a farmer, not because he had a talent for farming, not because he was educated for it, but because he was unable to be educated for anything else. He used the methods he had seen used by his father and grandfather before him. When this youthful country girl and boy started out, no doubt their horizon was rosy, dreams of a bright future buoyed their spirits, but as time went on a drab grey replaced the rose, the brightness of the dream became so dim that it utterly faded. Somehow they had lost that path that had seemed so clear in youth. Oh! The pathos of this thing that is happening every day among us!

Of course, we sent for this woman and many others like her. God grant that they received a spark to lighten their darkness.

But, oh, the joy of the children! All of life was before them, and they seemed to feel that they must crowd each moment full. If you could have heard those young voices lustily singing *America* or *John Brown's Baby Has a Cold Upon His Chest*, so that the very rafters seemed to quiver—you would have thought, "Here's whole-souled enthusiasm that seemingly can accomplish anything. Surely discouragements can never blight this. Will these young faces, too, become leathery and weather-beaten? Will those glowing eyes lose their lustre and be the tired eyes of the future? We must prevent that change!"

Perhaps the handcraft hour would appeal to you and you'd climb the stairs of the school house, for on the second floor nearly every room had some phase of handcraft activity in progress. Such a buzzing of saws and tap-tapping of hammers, punctuated by happy laughter! As you peeped at the toy makers, you could almost imagine they were a band of busy little leprechaums. Or perhaps you might look in at the book shelf department or the belt makers, or the rooms full of busy basket weavers, or the art class happily painting. I know you'd have loved the rustic bird houses the older boys were making. If you were a woman I am convinced you'd have stopped where the raffia purses were being made. Perhaps you'd do what a number of other women did—immediately get some material and go to work, even though you knew it was planned for girls only. Perhaps you'd linger where they were making cypress knee hanging baskets. Did you ever hear of such a thing? Cypress knees going to waste by the thousands and we didn't dream they could be made into porch ornaments!

You mustn't pass the rope makers without looking in on them, for I don't believe I'm more proud of any department! The little Boy Scout teacher had come to me when we were laying our plans and said with seeming reticence, "Mrs. Ellis, I won a prize at the Boy Scout Camp for my rope making machine—and say, it's lots of fun making rope—don't you want me to show some boy at Folk School how?" The second day his class grew to sixteen and he handled them like a general. The third day the machines were completed and the first strands of rope were made. At the end of that day the young teacher brought me sixteen strands tied together—the first efforts of the class. When I admired it, he said, "It is yours, we wanted you to have the first we made! Can't you wear it around your waist?"

All the time we've been up here in the handcraft department, the playground apparatus has been in constant use. The swings have never stopped, even though the rain tried to persuade the children on one occasion to seek shelter. The seats of many young trousers are thinner than when they first were tempted by those fascinating slides! Suggestions of the sand pile still remain in many a tousled head. The Ocean Wave would be positive proof that there is nothing dizzy-headed about our younger generation.

We haven't forgotten how joyous a thing it was, "when we were very young" to cut out a lion, or make a bead bracelet or mount a picture for mamma—so a visit to the nursery school or kindergarten would be a happy event. But the day nursery! Babies everywhere! Several mothers deposited three each day, one, two and three years old! Can't you imagine the relief to hear a talk without one baby in arms, one underfoot, the third goodness knows where—but some place where he shouldn't be, no doubt! Some babies are asleep in kiddie coops, some crawling on the floor, some playing with toys, having such a good time that they are oblivious of visitors. The first day a tot who undoubtedly had never before had the combination of a doll, a bed and a chair, spent the entire three hours rocking the doll, putting it to bed, and smoothing the bed up again. She was in a world of her own, and one she seemed to love.

The Folk School is such a big thing that it takes a deal of writing even to suggest its many phases. Do I seem about to omit the playground games—volley ball, baseball, contests of all sorts? No country complexes existed here, no community

lines were drawn here; only democratic good fellowship reigned.

I have barely mentioned the talks to the farmer and his wife. But the reactions to them are felt at a number of points. The man at the feed store, which also sells fertilizer, tells me one farmer said, "That Folk School taught me I must raise my own foodstuff, and by golly I'm going to. But you won't need to worry, I'll spend more on fertilizer." Another said, "I found I've been giving my soil the wrong thing—that's worth a heap to me." A third remarked as he put his book of fiction down on the librarian's desk, "I'm not going to read another book on fiction till I've read every book on farming you have in this library! The Folk School showed me I ought to know more about farming." The women are asking for books on "how to raise children," books on turkeys, chickens. Perhaps these are straws—but we're hoping they show how the wind blows.

When we were working for attendance, the leaders in each community went from house to house. Not the least of the things attained, we believe, is the knowledge and insight that these leaders have gained into the lives of the people of their own communities.

In the beginning we felt if only one returned home with a bigger vision, our work would not have been in vain. Are we idealists when we dare hope that in the hearts of many in that crowd there were stirrings and awakenings that will bear fruit for our parish in the years to come? The experiment succeeded—a victory for idealism. The Folk School is established to stay now as one of the annual events of our parish.

New Agreement in A.A.U.

A notable step in the development of harmonious relationship between two of the important sports-governing bodies of the country was taken at a spring meeting in New York of special committees from the Amateur Athletic Union and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Under the leadership of Avery Brundage, President of the A. A. U., and of Gustavus T. Kirby, past President of the A. A. U. and now Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the I. C. A. A. A. A., it has at last been possible to eliminate one of

the causes of friction between the A. A. U. and the groups which have had oversight of the amateur athletic activities of college men. The plan has been ratified by the governing body of the A. A. U.

The resolution is as follows:

"Be it resolved, That the Amateur Athletic Union amend its rules that amateur competition within the territorial jurisdiction of the Amateur Athletic Union by an undergraduate representing his college during term time in other than Amateur Athletic Union competition will not subject such competitor to the discipline of the Amateur Athletic Union if it is that such competition was not with or against others under suspension by the Amateur Athletic Union, and further if it is that the college of the undergraduate is a member of the Amateur Athletic Union or of an allied body of the Amateur Athletic Union or of any group member of the Amateur Athletic Union or one certified to the Amateur Athletic Union as of high standing by a representative collegiate body.

"That the Amateur Athletic Union so amend its rules as to provide for a new evidence of qualification for competition, the same to be a certificate by the college the competitor seeks to represent, as to his amateur status, character and residence, if it is that the college of the undergraduate is a member of the Amateur Athletic Union or of an allied body of the Amateur Athletic Union or of any group member of the Amateur Athletic Union or one certified to the Amateur Athletic Union as of high standing by a representative collegiate body."

This of course means that the burden and the responsibility for maintaining amateurism of college students both during term time and during non-term time whenever students represent the colleges is to be vested with finality in the colleges themselves and that the A. A. U. accepts the certification of the colleges so long as the colleges themselves are in good standing. The competition of college competitors in non-A. A. U.-sanctioned meets will, hereafter, have no effect on the A. A. U. standing of the competitors as in the recent Northwestern University swimming case, provided that the college, itself in good standing, certifies to the A. A. U. that its representatives are amateurs.

Recreation Loses Old Worker.—A. W. Raymond, Director of Recreation, Columbus, Ohio, has resigned his position to become manager of the Columbus Automobile Association.

Longing—For What

By

HOWARD S. BRAUCHER

Stand upon a railway station platform or wherever men and women in large numbers are passing and watch the faces of the men and women, many of them squinting, scowling, troubled—how many are buoyantly happy?

Boys and girls and men and women will always feel a measure of longing. The desire is not so much for costly things as for opportunity for activity. Man is by nature an active animal. He wants to walk, run, race, dance, swim, sail, sing, build something. He wants some form of game which brings exhilaration, thrill, joy.

Simple and elemental activity gives deeper and more permanent satisfaction than more complicated and involved activity.

The child and the man wait for the simple elemental revelation of activities which give him a feeling of freedom, of acting without external restraint. Such revelation is to him a new gospel—makes him a new man.

No watching of others, no passive commercial recreation at theatre or music hall can be a substitute.

The great untouched mine of national spiritual wealth is the hours of leisure of the people.

Automobiles are not needed, nor yachts, nor palaces, nor costly machines of any kind.

You need give no man anything except to know himself and understand his own nature and the nature of his fellows. Such knowledge pauperizes no one.

When a man feels himself, during a part of each day, each week, month, year, initiating activity under no form of outer compulsion but merely for the joy of doing, his youth is preserved, he feels freedom preserved, he has incentive to live.

Machinery has enslaved a large proportion of mankind. The fish cannot live without water, the bird without air, man without freedom. The problem of this generation is to keep a part of each man free. The way is to discover and reveal the laws of man's nature so that each man shall be helped to form habits which shall keep him free.

Certain hours each day the machinery of civilization weaves cables about each man to bind him

in. No amount of sleep will break these cables or save man from being encircled and bound.

Self-initiated activity habits during the leisure hours, the off-time hours, can alone help man to weave a character strong enough to preserve for him an independent existence, to keep him from becoming an automaton, a tool.

Preaching will not avail. Nor writing. Leadership it must be, a Pied Piper leadership that calls to what is hidden in man and helps him to form the habits which reveal him to himself. One by one the by-standers join the game. First, the feet begin to keep time, then the whole body catches the rhythm, then the individual forgets himself, his dignity, his pride, becomes as a little child and has entered his kingdom of heaven, joined the dance and become a part of the game.

Strong liquor has charmed because it freed man of his inhibitions, shook from off him the shackles, and made him to himself a hero, a part of the world in which he lives. Song has ever freed certain souls. The fountain of eternal youth is within man—not outside—no water from the Nile can restore the child heart and the child's freedom.

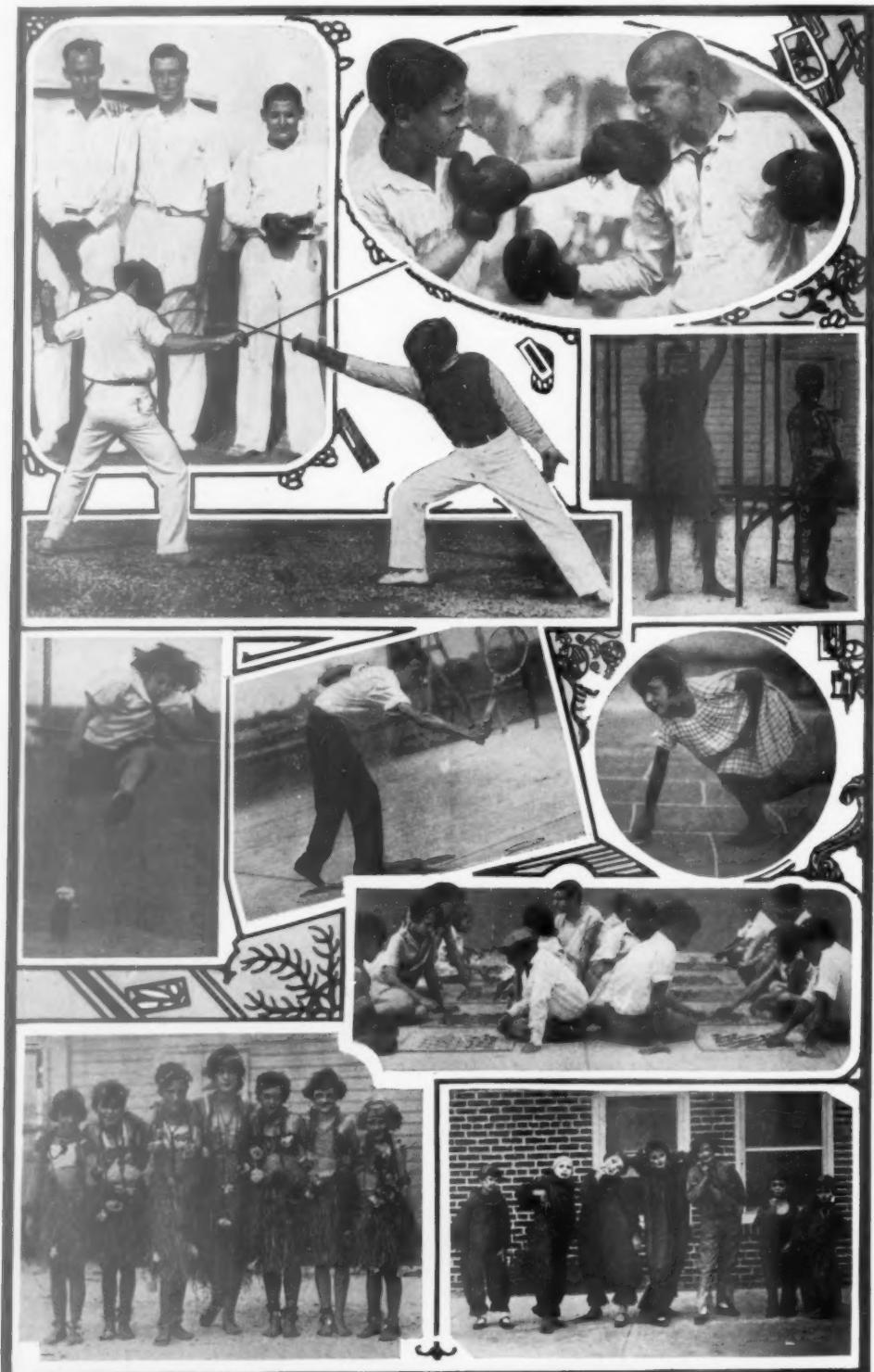
If the pipers have piped and the people have not danced—it is because not enough tunes have been tried. Let each man see all the attractive ways in which his mind and body and his soul can be active in his leisure hours, let each man see, not hear, see in life—not in books—all the variety of ways in which the human spirit has leaped the bounds set to shackle it in, and each person will recognize his own call and respond to it. The dull hours will be dull no longer. Dead spirits will take up their beds and not only walk but dance. Sex as well as drink will take its proper place. There will be no time to spare for wasting time—precious time in thievery.

After all to the man who is alive—gloriously alive—time—time for comradeship, time for play, time for freedom, for letting out what little there is within—is the great wealth. Time cannot be bought—must not be wasted.

And yet today the great waste of America is in the leisure hours of America.

Millions for machinery. Millions for the study of the body and its diseases. And almost nothing as yet to make fertile the great American desert, the great waste—the leisure hours of America.

The time has come to seek to determine and to help to apply the laws by which are formed such habits for the use of leisure time as will give men individually and collectively greater and more permanent satisfaction in living.



IN TAMPA, FLORIDA

Recreation and Social Case Work

From Miss Alice E. Richard, secretary of the Associated Charities in Cincinnati, comes an interesting account of the experiment tried out successfully by the Associated Charities of emphasizing recreation in social case work as an aid to normal family development. Miss Richard says:

"We were very conscious about five years ago that our case workers were not giving due consideration to the value of recreation as a means for the development of personality and the development of proper attitudes between members of families. Our study at that time revealed that the cultural life of our families was given little attention and that the monotony which our families suffer was, in a measure, responsible for some of the social problems which were developing in the family group as well as in lives of individuals. Conscious of this we had one of our workers who has considerable training in dramatics and dancing, and a fine knowledge of music, take over the responsibility for emphasizing the need of recreation as a social force in the development of normal family life among our clients. She began this work by giving talks to the staff, by reading records and calling attention to specific needs on individual cases to the supervisor of the district. Workers were requested to study each individual in the family from the standpoint of his recreational life. She held conferences with special workers or individual cases, trying to assist the worker in planning for some definite recreational or cultural program for certain individuals as part of the case work plan for the family.

"We recognized when we began to give thought to recreational needs that Cincinnati was doing much along recreation lines but many of the children and the adults of our families were in no way tied up with these activities. Reasons were various, chief among them the fact that recreational agencies were not particularly keen to include in their special programs children from "problem" families and that certain of our children having peculiarities did not necessarily fit into groups already established.

"Another important discovery was that limited funds and lack of initiative, inferiority complexes, special peculiarities of all kinds, made children and adults, particularly adults, hesitant to become partakers in any neighborhood recreational

activity. We discovered that it took a case work approach to learn what the barrier was that kept the adult or child from joining any given activity and that it took case work treatment to break down the barrier.

"On the one hand the case worker tried to do a case work job with agencies, helping to interpret our clients to the recreational agencies, individual by individual, and on the other hand they did case work with the clients in their effort to tie them up with the particular recreational activity through which the client would find himself and through which a source of outside interest that was wholesome could become part of the home atmosphere.

"During the past five years there has grown up a much better understanding between the recreational workers and the family case workers, broader understanding on the part of the case worker of what wholesome family life requires, and of what wholesome really means; emphasis has been placed on the development of the cultural needs of individuals and there have developed resources through which many of our clients have found an opportunity for personality development.

"The recreational worker does not head any department. She devotes herself only half of the time to this work and her plan is to work through the case workers merely to make them more and more conscious of the points which I have thus far brought out. She does conduct one dramatic class merely because we have found children who apparently cannot be tied up with dramatic interests in the community because of limitations, physically or socially, and who want and need this kind of expression. She does not conduct this dramatic class in the name of the Associated Charities. She had taken up the question of dramatics for special children with the Woman's City Club and through a committee known as the Junior Workshop Committee she has allowed this work to function under the Woman's City Club so that the children go to the Junior Workshop theatre of the Woman's City Club. Our recreational director gives her time once a week (Saturday morning) at the Woman's Club to train these children. While the members of this class are primarily the selected children of the Charities,

(Concluded on page 497)

Leadership in Play in America*

By

DR. THOMAS E. JONES,

President Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee

One who leads the play life of America touches the heart of the nation. Walter Camp, Tex Rickard, Bobby Jones, Helen Wills, Charlie Chaplin, Will Rogers, Joe and Farina in "Our Gang" have played upon the heart strings of millions of Americans. In the skill, good humor and intense humanity of these players we have seen ourselves represented. A good feeling, a satisfied, relieved emotion has swept over us as we have beheld ourselves caught up in the joyous life of another. We experience, through play, the atmosphere, the surrounding air and sunshine of the changing country to which we belong.

Perhaps no people have greater capacity for play than Americans. The variety of racial and cultural stocks which constitute our population makes easy an atmosphere of play. Immigrants, travelers, and students coming from all parts of the world have added songs, dances, games and witticism to our play heritage. London bridge, Blindman's buff, Maypole, Cricket, Football, Quoits and a score of other games from England; Tennis, games of chance and similar recreations from France; Calisthenics from Scandinavia; Jiu-jitsu from Japan; Jazz, Black-bottom and the Charleston from the Negro and folk dances from all parts of Europe provide us with instruments for every kind of frolic and fun. The dash, energy and lack of conventionality found in America is often ascribed to this variety of play spirit. If all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, the American "Jack" should be anything but dull. Diversity of racial origins with variety of social customs have undoubtedly created a social milieu which is of importance in determining the character of work and play in this country.

The spirit of contest which is essential to all good games is notoriously present in American play. Whether it be in the city or on the farm, in sophisticated hotels or in pioneer homesteads, much of American recreation takes the form of competitive effort. A generation ago the wood-

cutter, the corn-husker and ditch-digger performed almost superhuman tasks that his boast might be kept before the boisterous acclaim of frontiersmen. Walking the range, throwing the lariat and bullying the tenderfoot are similar in content, if not in form, to playing the stock market, gambling on the races and forcing to the wall competitors in business. These are games of chance which call for courage, energy and astuteness. They are favorites in America.

In view of the play spirit in America and its effectiveness as a socializing agency, it is highly desirable that every city, small town and rural district have a play program with adequately trained leaders. Of the three thousand cities with 5,000 population and above in 1928 but 872 reported having any community recreation programs under leadership. Six thousand six hundred were outdoor and 2,200 were indoor centers. The greatest number of play spaces were tennis courts, then baseball fields, athletic fields, swimming pools, bathing beaches, golf courses, summer camps and stadiums. A total of 13,700 such centers were recorded in the 1928 playground census. There were also 374 community houses, 239 play streets and 760 other play areas reported. While these records show marked progress in areas, facilities and quality of leadership over the average figures for 1923 to 1927 only the barest essentials of our needs have been met.

Perhaps the most appalling discrepancies in recreation facilities are found in the Negro group. According to the year book of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, there were nearly twenty-eight times as many outdoor playgrounds and twenty-three times as many indoor centers for white as for colored children in proportion to their respective populations. In some northern cities the Negro is still admitted to the same facilities in parks and other playgrounds as the whites. And a growing number of southern cities are establishing play

spaces for Negroes. Yet it is a noteworthy fact that in seven cities cited by Woofter where there were inadequate recreation facilities, the per cent of Negro juvenile offenders was from ten to twenty-eight per cent greater than the per cent of Negroes in the population.

Mr. Forrester B. Washington in his recent survey of forty northern and seventeen southern cities points out that Negroes are actually discouraged from participating in many wholesome leisure-time activities because the white public seems to believe that the Negro does not desire wholesome recreation and that his taste is sordid.

"But worse than denying him the opportunity of developing a taste for the higher type of leisure-time activities is the practice in some quarters of forcing upon the Negro a taste for degraded forms of leisure-time activities. One example of this is the practice of certain industrial firms and railroads that house Negro employees in bunk houses on company property of deliberately setting up gambling games as a part of the recreational program for these men. Another example is the quite general practice of the talking machine companies, of almost forcing on the Negro so-called "race records" that are distinctly immoral in their titles and content. Some of these records are so obscene that the companies have not the courage to advertise them in their regular catalogs, but issued special catalogs, for Negroes. Not content with issuing special catalogs, the companies also flaunt the suggestive titles of these records, accompanied by obscene pictures, in the Negro newspapers."

Again the tuberculosis death rate of the Negroes, which is nearly three times that of the whites, and greater for women than men, is astonishingly high in congested areas of our cities. It is imperative that more attention be given to establishing out-door playgrounds, fresh air courts and recreation centers for this one-tenth of our population.

Two billion eight hundred and forty dollars are spent annually for sickness and for the promotion of health by the people of the United States, according to Dr. Michael M. Davis, medical science director of the Julius Rosenwald fund. About one-quarter of this amount goes for doctors' fees, more than one-quarter for hospitals and clinics, another quarter or more for drugs and appliances, while the remainder is divided among dentists and nurses and other legitimate practitioners.

Handcraft in Melrose, Massachusetts

Early in the spring, the Park Commission of Melrose, Massachusetts, which conducts the playgrounds of the city, sent out to all the children a circular telling of the summer playgrounds and asking them to check activities in which they were most interested. As a result of the response secured, the Park Commission planned a summer program comprising many games, sports and similar activities but offering, in addition, classes in model aircraft, cement construction and life saving.

The airplane class started with thirty-nine members who met two hours each day for instruction. The cement class, although it represented an entirely new idea, began with a group of eighteen which met twice each week under a capable instructor. The boys were taught proper ingredients, proportions and the making of wood forms or molds. Members of the class completed at a cost to the city of \$1.26, a bird bath which will be placed in one of the parks. They also made two park settees which they donated to the city. The material for both cost \$2.43. Another achievement was represented in sixteen flower urns, which have been sold to the members of the class at \$1.00 each. "The dollar which we are receiving for the urns," writes George W. Rogers, Secretary of the Park Commission, "is to be divided as follows—seventy-three cents will be returned to the city for the cost of the material and the balance is to be placed in a recreation fund to be used to finance the boys' and girls' clubs we are planning to organize during the fall."

The settees donated by the class to the city and placed in the main park, will have on the under side of the seats the names of all the boys who helped to construct them.

"Garb 'em Gaily and Gangling Brothers' Circus."—Not a single feature was lacking in the three-ring circus given in Pasadena under the auspices of the Playground and Community Service and the Pasadena Post of the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps! The Elks' Band and Drill Corps, the Firemen's Band, the gigantic pageant, numberless wild animals, covered wagons, Indians and side shows combined to make this the most thrilling circus Pasadena has ever known.

An Experimental Playground in India

Miss Irene Mott, who is working in India, writes of the playground which she started as an experiment in Amraoti. "The section," says Miss Mott, "was perhaps our worst slum, with adjoining mud houses face to face in ten foot areas with no paving or drainage. It was almost impossible to work there because of the numbers of men and boys lounging about with nothing to do but make rude comments. So I decided to try and see what play would do in this section where most of the bad inter-community feeling started.

"A Mohammedan college boy volunteered his services. I had trouble when I started the movement because the Municipal Committee (Hindu) told me not to use a Mohammedan, but we went ahead. The result two months later was one of the most extraordinary sights I have ever seen. Here were fifty people playing football, from twelve year old boys, hovering on the outskirts for a chance to kick, to a gray haired Saddhu of forty. There were Hindus and Mohammedans, all castes jumbled up. It was all accompanied by wild enthusiasm which was not dampened even by occasional falls into filthy mud holes or by cows shouldering their way through the middle of them. The thing which pleased me most was that after a two days' absence Khan, our volunteer leader, returned to find the boys playing with a ball which they had made themselves out of rags."

The story of Khan's experience is told in his own words:

Having completed a year's course in the Physical Education in Spence College Jubbulpore, I am convinced of the great possibilities that physical education can do in improving the condition of those who are poor both in health and mind. I therefore volunteered my humble services to the public in general and to have more practical organizing experience in particular. Immediately after completing my Wood Badge course at Bharaghata I came down to Amraoti and started my work. This was on the ninth of April, 1929.

On the evening of the tenth Miss Mott and I went to Wadali. There we met a few boys and we gathered some more, about fifteen in all, of all ages between nine and fifteen. We stayed there for some time and during this time I conducted some physical activities and relay races. Most of the players were school boys and they were very easy to discipline. They easily and

clearly understood my instructions and responded very well. We had a jolly good time; they all went away happy promising to meet again next week.

Next morning we went to a place quite in the center of the town, known as Massengegunge. I found this quarter in a miserable condition with awfully bad sanitation. We found the boys playing marbles or sitting on dust and dirt chatting away. We approached these boys and their parents and told them of our intentions, informed them of our plans that we had reserved a piece of land for them known as Ghaghata, quite in the open and that we desired to play with them. We had great difficulty in arguing and convincing them of the advantages of open air, sunshine and organized games which would not have cost them anything at all. A very small number of boys were quite pleased to come for the play and a few others also reluctantly condescended to come. I went there the same evening. I met a few boys and sent some of them to get some more. Quite a good number turned up, say about twenty. I tried to line them up but they had no idea what a straight line meant. They just stood next each other. I gave them a few posture correcting exercises. They did not like this sort of calisthenics and regarded it as an absolute farce. I had hardly taken them a couple of days when the boys and parents started approaching me with all sorts of unheard of funny and amusing objections.

1). When I wanted to keep record of attendance they thought that I was taking their names down to enlist them for war.

2). Others who were a little wiser, if I may use that word, thought that I meant to give them strength and physique with the ulterior motive of taking them to war.

3). It is superstition in India that when anything is to be built, human sacrifices have got to be offered, and uneducated women make convenience of this threat to their children to keep them indoor by frightening them of being caught to be thrown under bridges.

4). That by the mixing of the various communities, Basars*, Talies† and Mohammedans on common playground was meant to spoil their respective castes or to injure the superiority and

*Basars—one of the outcastes

†Talies—quite a high caste—oil pressers

pride of the one caste by mixing with the other.

5). Some were not content with the above objection but believed that we were trying to turn them into Christians.

6). I met opposition from all castes and was accused of working in the interest of Hindus while as a matter of fact it was only a chance that the Hindus happened to be in the majority in that part.

Thus far I have traced the mental attitude of the public in general and the players in particular but now I will try to show briefly some of the physical inconveniences and the unsuitability of the place in its present state.

1). The ground is much too small for the large number of people who gradually started to come, between forty to fifty in number, to play together.

2). This piece of ground is situated in a place something like a thoroughfare.

3). There is no definite arrangement to show that this ground was reserved for us and there was nothing to check them.

4). Many people were constantly crossing the field to reach the public latrine, 200 yards away. Others would cross with pots on their heads to reach the water pipe about a hundred yards on the other side.

5). There being a public market at very close distance, a number of carts and men used to cross the field.

6). This being a nice open place a number of cattle gathered there at night and left the place dirty in the morning. Even though the cattle were driven away in the morning they occasionally ran into the field. The cattle owner in spite of all requests would not listen, and it was a beastly hard trouble to organize these cattle and the boys at the same time.

So far I have mentioned some of the difficulties and hindrances on my way. I will now briefly narrate how I overcame some of them. For the first few days I played with the Basar boys only and played a few games with them. Others, seeing the boys amused, joined afterwards. I tried to have a few relay races with them but these boys will not stand quite in a single line. In the next few days I bought them a football. I found that football was a game which interested them most. Gradually they all were so much taken with the game of football and volley ball and other activities that they must have been coming between forty and fifty every time. On many evenings also we played Indian games, namely Khoke,

Do Do, Nonpat Surkadi. After that I took them through some races, 100 yard dash, high jumps and long jumps.

For the first few days I had difficulty in gathering the boys but now they all respond to the whistle, and now if ever a boy keeps away the whole of them become against him and want him to obey. They have also learned to have due regard to the laws of the games. In them they have been developed to a team spirit and they all cooperate very well.

I have been quite pleased with my own little efforts and in conclusion I only hope that somebody would come forward to carry on the work in which the public has now begun to take a great deal of interest.

Recreation and Social Case Work

(Continued from page 493)

any child can bring another child so as to make possible a class which does not necessarily consist of Associated Charities' children only.

"Workers have discovered latent talents in our children, scholarships have been secured from dramatic schools, the Conservatory of Music, adults have been interested in joining groups already existing in the community and all of it has been done strictly on a case work basis, by individual analysis and an effort to fit the particular need of the individual to the particular resource in the community which met that need.

"Occasionally at Christmas time individuals have given parties. Some of them were very worthwhile and have meant much in the way of interest in clients and in the working out of their problems, and some of them were just parties. We have not particularly encouraged such parties under our leadership. We have as far as possible tried to work through the existing recreational agencies, our particular task being that of discovering the individual need in our clients and finding out in the recreational program that exists in Cincinnati the particular recreation which would fit this individual and help toward his personal development, in changing his attitude of mind and bringing a vital interest into the life of the family and make for 'living' where there had previously only been existence. The family case worker is beginning to realize more and more that family case work means helping the family and all its members to live the broadest and fullest life possible."

The Gold Mine of Germany*

By

JOHN PALMER GAVIT

The organized devotion to physical culture—it is hardly too much to call it a German obsession. Athletics always was a German specialty. More than a century ago, Friedrich Ludwig Jahn (you will find his name by the way, on a pew in the old St. Paul's Church at Frankfurt, among the distinguished attendants upon the Revolutionary Assembly of 1848) organized the Deutsche Turnerschaft (the German Gymnastic Union); its purpose to further the preservation of the German people by physical training. Out of it grew the wide-spread interest in competitive sport; but always the Germans have stressed the matter of physical preparedness, not only as a part of military training in a whole people armed for nationalistic purposes, but as a prerequisite to competent individual life.

The War stripped Germany of its athletes generally, and especially of those equipped to train others. Along a thousand miles of battle-front, Germany's best of physical manhood died or was irremediably crippled. It was in the nature of things that first and deepest into the hell-fire should go those best fit to carry on the athletic tradition.

It was characteristically German that among the problems first confronted was that of the restoration of the German physique. As for material for rejuvenation—those now between fifteen and thirty were the children who especially suffered from war-privations and the effects of the blockade. Virtually no home escaped. A rich man in Hamburg told me that he could observe the increasing effects upon his own children; suffering actual hunger to the point of physical injury.

"I had money enough," he said, "but there was no food to buy with it."

I had the same story from dozens of others. There was an appreciable diminution in the average stature and general vitality of German children after the War. To a prominent psychiatrist in Berlin I remarked upon what I thought to be a general characteristic of the children playing in

the parks—an unnatural quiet, a solemnity, a strained, "anxious" look.

"Do I imagine that?" I asked.

"No, it is true. They bear the marks of inadequate pre-natal metabolism of their mothers during the 'starvation period' of the War and the inflation: probably of insufficient nourishment for themselves; and of the anxiety and uncertainty saturating their home atmosphere. Children are unconsciously very sensitive to atmosphere, and Germany is a pretty anxious place, and will be for a long time to come."

Far more than before the War has physical training become a matter of public policy. Army and police—even the aviators under privately owned corporations—devote greater attention to it even than formerly. Aside from that, which is natural enough in a country more or less completely disarmed, in every part of Germany government has definitely taken on the subject of recreation and physical culture. It is now provided by law that municipalities large and small must provide athletic fields, swimming-pools and other facilities for physical culture. Some of those already constructed are extraordinarily fine. The stadium and Sport Forum at Berlin are models; not less so is the great stadium at Cologne, where this summer was held perhaps the greatest Turnfest in German history—the first really old-style meeting since the War.

But equally notable is the opening of colleges for the training of athletic and physical-culture teachers, and for the teaching of sports. Leaders with university status are turned out at the end of a three and one-half years' course, and are rapidly replacing the generation of such leaders which was destroyed in the War, or now getting too old for this strenuous occupation. In those schools, at a very low price, one can be taught all sorts of sport, from skiing to tennis, from boxing to football. And passing almost any sizeable town in Germany one can see from the train windows the municipal playing fields or perhaps the swimming-pool, where the new Germany is trying to restore the

*From the *Survey Graphic*, February, 1929. Published by courtesy of Survey Associates, Incorporated.

vigorous physical development wasted on the battle-fronts.

There was something almost hysterical about the joy with which Germans of all classes hailed the news that their athletes had won second place in the Olympiad at Amsterdam this year. They were content to have "shown" at all in the competition. To them it signified that Germany in one of her ancient specialties was "coming back;" they keenly relished this symbol of restored neighborhood.

"Perhaps you do not fully realize," said a German to me during the Turnfest at Cologne, "the service that international athletics renders to the cause of international peace and good understanding. We are going to Amsterdam to the Olympics for the first time since 1912. I hope our young men will do well; but I am content that they are back again in the kind of competition of which all peoples can be proud, and which leaves no world-ruin behind."

Results of Harmon Foundation Contest

With a donation of \$2,000 to Laura A. Patridge of Owosso, Michigan, the Harmon Foundation of New York City has completed a total of sixteen awards to real estate companies which have set aside land for permanent public playgrounds, according to the Playground and Recreation Association of America, which administered the awards.

Fourteen subdividers have received \$2,000 awards and two have received \$1,000 awards. The playgrounds donated vary from one to eleven acres in area. They range from one and six-tenths to fourteen percent of the subdivisions of which they are a part, twelve of them being in excess of four percent.

Factors influencing the choice of real estate men to receive the awards were the type and promise of the subdivision, the rapidity of the city's growth in population, and the willingness of the city to accept the play areas.

The appraised value of the areas set apart is more than \$121,000. In most cases, the money given was devoted to developing and beautifying the play spaces.

The purpose of the Foundation's awards was threefold: to show municipalities that it is wise to acquire recreation space from subdividers at no expense save loss of taxes; to show subdividers that it is profitable to donate space for public use and even to go to the expense of improving and beautifying it; and, third, to inform prospective home buyers of the advantage to themselves and their children of a play area near their homes.

The experience of the National Realty Company of Indianapolis, which set aside playground space in a Battle Creek subdivision for Walter Betterly, illustrates the advantage reaped by the real estate man.

"Within a period of approximately three weeks we disposed of all of the lots," writes the company, "and we all feel that the success of this sale was due in a very large measure to the setting aside of a little over three acres of beautiful wooded land in the subdivision for a recreational area.

"Practically all of the buyers have children, and the idea of having a play field and recreational area met with their instant approval. The first lots to go were those near this part that was set aside. I feel that this is the first thing a subdivider should provide for in his plat."

The city stands to gain even more than the donor of the recreation site, it is pointed out by W. E. Brooks, city manager of Morgantown, West Virginia, to which the Suncrest Homes Company gave four and a half acres. "It receives without cost a piece of land which in a few years could be purchased only at figures which would perhaps be prohibitive," he stated.

The companies receiving the awards were: Will County Realty Co., Joliet; J. D. Diffenbaugh, Monmouth, and the Carl O. Johnson Co., Rockford, Illinois; H. A. Smith, Anderson, Indiana; Great Lakes Land Co., Inc., Detroit, Sun Set Hills Development Co., Grand Rapids, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Betterly, Battle Creek, Michigan; George F. Kramer, South St. Paul, Minnesota; Conshohocken Realty Co., Conshohocken, Pa.; Boundary Realty Co., New York City; Estates Realty Co., Lorain, Ohio; Monticello Land Co., Fort Worth, J. A. Stobaugh and Mrs. Anna L. Newlin, of Coleman, and Mr. W. L. Stark, Austin, Texas; the Sunset Homes Company, Morgantown, W. Va., and Henrietta Fuller, Jessie Wallis and Amanda Crooks, of Racine, Wisconsin.



TOM SAWYER DAY AT WAIKIKI BEACH

Tom Sawyer Day at Waikiki*

BY ARTHUR K. POWLISON

Superintendent of Recreation

Mark Twain has immortalized Tom Sawyer and his many humorous adventures with Huckleberry Finn. You will remember how Tom Sawyer's friends passed on the dusty country road and how they stopped to watch him whitewash his fence. Their superiority changed to envy as they watched him swing his brush with a flourish. Finally he actually permitted them to whitewash a section!

There is a bit of Tom Sawyer spirit in us all, especially among children under twelve, and, as Mark Twain's young hero found, this spirit can sometimes be put to advantage.

Honolulu was surprised to find itself host on the afternoon of May fourteen to over two thousand boy and girl Tom Sawyers, who ranged in age from eight to fifteen.

Loose coral had drifted in from the reefs which make Waikiki's surfing famous, and was causing annoyance to swimmers. There was no question but that it needed to be cleaned out. Everybody's business seemed nobody's business. Dr. Dai Yen Chang, a member of the Board of Supervisors and Chairman of the Parks and Playgrounds Committee, suggested a beach clean-up to the Recreation Commission, of which he is a member. Bertram Ribenburgh, Superintendent of Parks, agreed to haul away and use for fill such loose coral as could be piled up by the boys and girls. Mrs. F. M. Swanzy, Chairman of the Recreation Commission since its inception, was among the first to provide funds for special street cars to the beach. And so Tom Sawyer day was inaugurated and is destined to become an annual event.

Special street cars with free transportation for those carrying swimming suits or trunks made

*Extracts from article appearing in *Paradise of the Pacific*, June, 1929.

their way from all points in the city to Waikiki beach. In a moment the children were racing down to the water's edge from the dressing rooms provided by the Outrigger Canoe Club and the hotels. Probably eighty per cent. of the 2,000 boys and girls had never before dug their feet in the sand of this particular beach.

Dr. Francis D'Eliscu, internationally known sportsman, managed the whole army of youngsters with a whistle. The human chain reached a quarter of a mile along the beach. Eager as the boys and girls were to enter the water and be first back with their bag full of coral, the discipline of their home, school and playground was apparent.

Bang! With the shot of the gun the beach literally rose into animated life. Like hundreds of seals, the children were running into the water, yelling, cheering, spreading fanlike until the dots of heads resembled a capsized cocoanut cargo. All let loose in a game of fun and accomplishment. It was clear from the beginning that they were there for more than the purpose of swimming. The necessity of teamwork early manifested itself. The sacks were heavy but hearts were light as the bags were piled up before the checkers who were endeavoring to take down the unpronounceable name of more than twenty nationalities and mixtures representative of Hawaii. The inspiring sight could not but bring to the many hundreds of spectators who lined the beach an appreciation of the happy manifestations of childhood. Cameras clicked and moving picture machines recorded action—all endeavoring to preserve the spirit of the scene.

This was a play project—all who witnessed will remember it. After the period of work-play came the free-for-all swim. Then the recall gun and the scramble into clothes. The 1,976 passengers checked on the street cars were transported safely to the vicinity of their homes. A few trucks were waiting for their cargoes. The first Tom Sawyer Day of 1929 became a happy memory.

This was not, however, the first clean-up day in which the playground children had taken part. On one occasion the children made a game of throwing stones off Atkinson Park in Honolulu and helped clean out a wading pool at Ala Moana Park by hoisting a five gallon gasoline tin and anchoring another in the water. They made wonderful resounding targets. The results were astonishing. It was the Tom Sawyer method of getting things done.

Attention had been called editorially to the disgraceful appearance of the government proper-

ty behind the public library. Some 200 playground children made quick work of the matter. Two bunches of bananas worked miracles. The stone platform on Punchbowl built in 1924 was used as a focal point for speakers and musicians during Easter sunrise services. This was followed by the building of a more pretentious stone seat and landmark which serves as a base for the huge cross at Easter time. Four thousand children and adults took part in this community enterprise. The ancient Hawaiian custom of building heiaus (temples) was revived when the stones were passed from hand to hand in a human chain.

Arbor Day brought children from many playgrounds to the Ala Moana driveway to plant cocoanut palms. The nature trail at Tantalus which marks with wooden tags some 43 species of trees and plants is another effort to familiarize all with the surroundings of Hawaii.

An All-Adult Play Day

Tables were turned in Lynchburg, Virginia, when the children stood on the side lines and watched their parents play at the adult play day held on September twentieth under the auspices of the Department of Recreation and Playgrounds.

The ball was set rolling at a meeting attended by the heads of the civic, fraternal and similar groups of the city. At this meeting a general chairman was selected and a Women's Committee appointed to arouse interest, together with publicity and program committeees. There were many newspaper articles and editorials and the street car company carried posters on the front of all their cars. Delivery trucks were also adorned with posters telling of the event. Merchants' bulletins carried stories and announcements were made at all the churches.

The program, which ran from 2:30 p. m. to 7:00, began with horseshoe contests on ten regulation courts. At the same time three volley ball courts were in action. While the men were enjoying these games, the women, armed with broom sticks and rubber balls, played a baseball game which brought down the house! Then came bean bag golf, croquet and mass games. A husband calling contest was a popular feature and a rolling pin throwing event with a football dummy as a target furnished much entertainment.

Bombay's Municipal Playgrounds

By

F. WEBER

*Director of Physical Education, Y. M. C. A.,
Bombay, India*

In 1925 the Bombay Municipality Corporation passed a resolution for the establishment of two demonstration playgrounds to be conducted with leadership. The understanding was that the local Y. M. C. A. would cooperate and supply general leadership in the services of their director of physical education, while the city would furnish the land, the apparatus and equipment and their maintenance, and the salaries of the workers—a trained play director and a gardener and watchman for each ground. The city also agreed to take care of all maintenance costs and any further expenses accruing from new additions made to the playgrounds. In addition to providing general supervision the Y. M. C. A. agreed to plan the apparatus and supervise its erection, select and train the playground directors and choose the sites.

Of about 20 city-owned available vacant plots two were selected in the most dangerous areas, one of which was said by the police to be the worst hotbed of vice in the entire city. Its dimensions were only 185' x 265' while the other measured 220' x 280'. Six thousand rubles were allocated for the initial cost of fixed apparatus on each playground. This apparatus was designed by the Y. M. C. A. in cooperation with the City Engineer and was made in the Municipality Workshop. The apparatus on each playground consists of 15 swings, 12 see-saws, a giant stride, a merry-go-round, an overhead ladder, a boat swing, a slide, climbing and sliding pole, parallel bars, high bars, horse, buck, basketball and volley ball courts. The material is all galvanized metal except the seat boards and the frame work of the chute and the horse and buck which are of wood. A high picket fence surrounds each playground.

Each director receives a year's training in the National School of Physical Education in Madras and during this training period the directors are required to do two hours of assigned reading daily. At a two hour class held each week reports on the reading are made. In addition there is a

weekly meeting at which problems are discussed, tournaments worked out and programs planned. The students have access to a library of about 75 books on recreation and allied subjects and three monthly magazines—*The Playground*, *Physical Training* and *American Physical Education Review*. Papers on pertinent topics are assigned regularly. The directors are paid 100 rubles a month.

Among the activities on the playground are wrestling, boxing, pyramid tumbling and sports and contests of various kinds. A prominent feature of the playgrounds is the open tournament play which takes place. Twenty-six teams recently competed in a playground volley ball tournament. These teams represented high schools, colleges, welfare centers and clubs. Nearly as many basketball teams competed in another cup tournament. Kite flying contests are a regular feature of the program.

The boys of both playgrounds competed in the 1927 International Basketball Free Throw Championships. One of the junior teams defeated the junior teams of Scotland, Italy and Turkey. One of the junior boys stood seventh in the individual competition. Health education through lectures and lantern slides holds an important place in the program, while instruction in sanitation, hygiene and set-up exercises constitute special features. Certain swings and see-saws are reserved exclusively for the girls and a trained woman occasionally puts on a program of games.

Attendance for the first year of both playgrounds was approximately 1,500 boys. One playground, besides serving all ages, castes and both sexes, has had to care for large numbers of boys from eighteen schools who came to the ground accompanied by teachers in a period of one week. Boy Scouts and other organized groups regularly use the playground.

The work has aroused much interest among the high officials who pay frequent visits. In speaking of the value of the program, Police Inspector

Gole stated that conditions in the neighborhood of one playground, formerly an unsafe place for men to walk by at night and for women to frequent in the daytime, have been entirely changed. To show his personal appreciation for the work he was the first to donate a silver loving cup for a volleyball tournament.

It was found that the most practical method of control for the local playgrounds was through the organization of a committee for the individual playground. One of these committees consists of Mohammedans, Hindus, Indian Christians, Jews, Armenians and Parsees.

Personal Testimony Valuable

An effective statement in behalf of the library movement was made recently in an editorial in the Grand Rapids press which described the help which Henry Ford, Thomas A. Edison, Orville and Wilbur Wright had obtained from the libraries in the cities in which they lived as young men.

Recreation workers throughout America ought to be on the lookout for personal testimony from men and women as to how playgrounds and recreation centers and various parts of the recreation movement have helped them at critical periods. Recently a successful physician in New York City stated at a public meeting, as he himself made a contribution of \$250 for a special recreation project, that he owed much in his own life to the work of the New York Public School Athletic League; that it was through public school athletics that he gained confidence in himself; that he was interested in contributing because he wanted others to have opportunities similar to what had been given to him.

We all remember that at a research conference, Dr. E. L. Thorndike of Teachers College, Columbia University, distributed to approximately one thousand people a mimeographed questionnaire. The men and women were asked to rank under interest, intellectual development, and character development, the various subjects of the school curriculum and athletic sports in the order in which they had influenced the writers.

Athletic sports were ranked first by the largest number as influencing character development. The group present at this research conference consisted entirely of teachers or prospective teachers.

Play Days in Reading

The athletic meet and play day program conducted last summer by the Department of Public Playgrounds and Recreation of Reading, Pennsylvania, were particularly successful. The Department attributes this success to the fact that individual scoring was eliminated and recognition given to the playgrounds. The fact that a wading pool was offered as an award for winning not one but both of the competitions added much interest, and the week which elapsed between the Track and Field Week and the play day was one of the busiest of the entire season, with every playground busy rehearsing its stunts, dramatizations and folk dances in order to pull up the scores made at the athletic meet. The play day program of soccer, playground baseball, bat ball, dodgeball, snatch it and volley ball, novelty races, group games, folk dances and other events, gave an opportunity for the children to win a piece of apparatus for their playground.

The best of the stunts and folk dances presented on this day were later given on children's day at the Reading Fair. Once more the playground securing most points received a reward in the form of playground apparatus which became the possession of every child on the playground. Curiously enough the playground which won second prize in the playground competition received first honors at the fair and a small ground which had scored very few points in the first competition won the gymnastic outfit at the fair.

"Labor must have both the leisure and the money to buy all things that it helps to make" is the central theme of a full page advertisement in the New York Times for Tuesday, May 7th, 1929. This advertisement is but one of the many expressions of the same idea that our present prosperity depends upon giving the American people time for refreshment, for enjoyment of goods produced. Some of us may not agree with the fundamental implication that happiness is dependent upon the possession of things or that prosperity needs more and more of a departure from the simple life and the purchases of an increased variety of articles. Yet those of us who are interested in leisure and education for leisure cannot but think and ponder on the increasing attention which business is giving to leisure not from the standpoint of increasing human happiness, but from the point of view of increasing sales of goods.

How a Social Director Helps Hotel Guests to Play*

By

MARJORIE DAY

Social Director, Linnard Hotels, California

The responsibility of the social recreational director in a hotel lies in the field of entertainment of guests after they have been well housed and fed, for the director's efforts to re-create the spirit of the guest are most important in successfully keeping him under the hotel's roof and sending him out as a voluntary missionary in behalf of its interests. This creation of a happy, well-satisfied guest, who is the best form of advertisement, is work that definitely comes under the Department of Promotion,—in plain terms, "business getting." This department through advertising, news articles, social items, attempts to tell the world the facts that will bring more business to the hotel's doorstep. The social and recreational director is the member of the staff who furnishes activities about which the publicity director may talk.

If one has been convinced of the fact that lifting the spirit of the guest is a part of the work of encouraging him to stay longer in the hotel and return again and again, one will readily understand what a versatile and creative person the executive of this department must be. What gives a lift to one guest bores another.

In the European plan hotel, the guests are either permanent ones, with their own social contacts and interests, or are transients for a few days. Neither group needs the efforts of a social director to any extent. Her efforts are usually confined to creating activities in the public rooms of the hotel that will encourage community patronage and events must be planned to stimulate tea, luncheon and dinner business, that keep the lobbies and public rooms teeming with people.

Lecture series, dramatic productions, concerts are encouraged. At the present time, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco we are installing an international art gallery in the hotel, where the best specimens of art may be bought on the budget plan by the small salaried patron. San Fran-

cisco thereby gains an added source of art stimulation and the hotel through this activity gains promotion values.

In a resort hotel, the guests come for a summer or a winter season. They are usually people of the leisure class, ready to play, and they go to the resort hotel that gives them the best setting and facilities for play and the type of leadership in their recreation that brings about the most congenial social contacts. The social and recreation director in the resort hotel has a definite challenge and in this type of hotel her manager can see the results of her efforts most definitely. If this social director is a good psychologist, she will know that people in the mood for play which is really "re-creation of the spirit", desire physical activity, cultural stimulus and social contact. She plans her programs with these needs in mind, and if she is clever she will plan activities in which the *guests themselves participate*. This is the purpose behind the efforts in a resort hotel, when contests are planned in which guests compete or are judges, plays and movies in which they are actors and social affairs for the women in which they are hostesses. This is one of the basic principles in the organization of public recreation and it applies to program planning hotels as well as on playgrounds and in civic social centers.

The community at which a hotel is located is often a great asset in the provision of entertainment and recreation. The social director not only plans activities within the hotel, but informs her guests of the concerts, lectures, plays and places of amusement afforded outside the hotel. It is this full and versatile program that attracts the guests to the Huntington Hotel in Pasadena, for instance, year after year. One hotel is compared to another in the matter of entertainment afforded, and it is generally admitted that the hotel which has a full program, skillfully handled, tends to get the most business.

We have suggested how the community in

*In this article Miss Day, formerly associated with the War Camp Community Service, tells how she is applying her experience in recreation to the modern American hotel.

which a hotel is located offers assistance to the social director in program planning. We can say also that the hotels in a community are strengthening factors in supporting the constructive cultural activities of a city. Our Eastern guests in Pasadena are enthusiastic patrons of the Philharmonic Concerts, the Community Playhouse, the lecture series and sport events of national interest. Because they have these attractions in California they are not so loath to leave their social season in the East. Soon a great many of our Eastern guests decide to make California their permanent home. They leave our hotel and buy homes in the community, it is true, but we feel that we have contributed to the prosperity of the community and State by being the first agents in the field of making them want to live in California. The social director in a hotel is, in this way, a liaison officer between the hotel and the community. She catches up the values of community activities for the benefit of her guests and she helps to support the activity itself for the community by increasing its patronage.

ADVENTURE DAYS



OFF FOR AN OVER NIGHT HIKE AT WINSTON-SALEM

An Industrial Program in Bloomfield

There are three outstanding types of activities included in the Center program of Bloomfield, New Jersey—Industrial Federation activities, community center program and a boys' work program. The Industrial Federation promotes a program of competitive athletics and social athletics in all the larger industries of the community. The membership is open to all industries and each plant is entitled to one representative on the governing board of the organization. There are no yearly dues or membership fees, but the organization is supported through a system of entry fees which cover the expenses of each particular activity. The industries pay fees only for the special activities in which they participate. With each bulletin announcing a new activity is sent an estimated expense report and the amount each industry will pay if it takes part. This plan seems to meet with the approval of employers, who in several instances have voluntarily contributed for the particular activity in which they were interested.

An essential part of the successful operation of an organization of this kind is the securing of the attendance of the plant representatives at the regular meetings. It is necessary to have the representative officially appointed by the head of the plant and instructed to handle all business of the Federation in his plant. This necessitates attendance at all meetings. Meetings must be held at a convenient time. Luncheon meets are particularly attractive to the representatives.

The community center program is mainly social in its scope. Parties, dances, meetings, lectures, bazaars, musicales, entertainments and courses of all kinds are conducted. The self-operating system enforced in connection with the center activities is quite different from the usual school or field house center. The community center is the headquarters and regular meeting place of fifty local organizations. Each group organizes its own program, and this has certain values in that having the responsibility for organization, the groups are greatly interested in seeing that the program is successful. The center has been operating successfully under this plan for several years. All the groups participating represent a wide variety of interests and hobbies in the leisure time field which they themselves have decided upon.

Recreation and Athletics for the National Guard

BY

MARION C. SPARROW

*Chief Director, Arroyo Seco Playground,
Los Angeles, California*

The Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department has for the past three years cooperated with the 160th Infantry, California National Guard, by assigning a director on a part time basis to organize and direct a recreational and athletic program throughout the year, including two weeks at the annual encampment at San Luis Obispo.

It is now well recognized by National Guard leaders that athletic and recreational training is as important as any other phase of military training.

Quoting from the "California Guardsman," the official publication of the California National Guard: "These National Guard Camps are 'man building' camps, and we must realize that athletics and recreation contribute more than any other factor in the mental as well as the physical upbuilding of our Californians."

The recreation and athletic program is very unique and broad in scope. The first thought in mind is to plan a program that will serve the entire regiment and not cater to the best athletes at the expense of the many. This is accomplished by leaning heavily towards a massed athletic program, and carrying on a formal athletic program as well.

The program carried on at the two weeks encampment is as follows:

Morning:

Calisthenics. The rest of the forenoon is taken up by military drill.

Afternoon:

Masses athletic games (by companies)

Playground Ball (Inter-company league)

Baseball (Battalion league. Regimental baseball team plays a series of games with local town teams.)

Swimming (Every afternoon, including one swimming meet.)

² Note: In addition to the activities described, the Playground and Recreation Department also maintains a director at the athletic field on the military reservation at Fort Arthur.

Horse shoes (Horseshoe and volley ball courts are set up in company streets so they can be used at any time desired.)

Formal Track and Field meet (Track and field events, such as shot, discus, broad-jump, dashes.)

Massed Field Day (The massed field day events include such events as Centipede race, chariot race, tug-of-war. Tent poles are used in the centipede race with six men from each of the twenty companies competing, making a total of one hundred and twenty men in this one event. Approximately 750 take part in this field day, out of a thousand men.)

Boxing and Wrestling (A man is stationed at the ring side each afternoon to give instruction and advice to men who take part in the formal bouts and matches which are held in the evening.)

Entertainments. Evening boxing and wrestling. (Entertainments are staged by different companies and battalions through the use of whatever talent happens to be in the regiment. These entertainments are very good.)

General Singing (Every evening)

Stunts (Pyramids and Tumbling)

Moving Pictures

There are always amusing and sometimes serious things that happen at camp. With a great body of men at the two weeks encampment and such a vast amount of work to be accomplished in such a short length of time, some things just must happen!

During the massed field day events last year, one of the teams in the centipede race managed to get a short man in the middle of the tent pole with much taller men on the ends. Consequently, when the race started and the six men raised the pole up between their legs and started to run, the little man was lifted clear of the ground. He made a good job of riding the pole until they got within about twenty feet of the finish line, where he fell, causing all of his team mates to fall and tangle up. This brought a roar from the spectators.

Seasonal activities are carried on in the Armory at Los Angeles with some activities continued throughout the year.

Volunteer leadership is used to a great extent from the enlisted personnel of the regiment.

The officers of the 160th Infantry are very appreciative of this service rendered by the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department. This is evident from a letter written by the commanding officer of the 160th Infantry to the Playground Department:

"Again it is my pleasure and privilege to write to you regarding the service rendered by the Playground Department to the welfare of the 160th Infantry, Los Angeles' own.

"I speak of the invaluable services of your director assigned to our regiment for duty, and who accompanied the command to the summer encampment at San Luis Obispo, and then served the recreational and welfare interests of the regiment.

"My own appreciation is very great and I consider this work of the highest importance to the morale and training of this command, and this word of appreciation is written in the hope that we shall continue this pleasant and profitable relationship."

What can make up for a play-less childhood?

A New Swimming Pool for Jacksonville

On June 10th, the city Playground and Recreation Department of Jacksonville, Florida, dedicated a new swimming pool at Lackawanna Park. The pool building, measuring 80'x150', is of reinforced concrete and steel construction with face brick on the exterior walls. The lower floor, entrance to which is gained through several passageways, contains two rest rooms, two athletic rooms, locker rooms with 440 lockers and twenty-two showers, a first aid room and office space for attendants.

A group of stairways lead to the top of the building where the pool, 45'x105' is located. A continuous flow of 299 gallons of water per minute, circulates through the pool, the water coming from a well built for the purpose. About the pool is a concourse seventeen feet in width with thirteen feet devoted to the use of spectators. The pool ranges from three to nine feet in depth. At one end of the pool concourse is a miniature pool for children, 10'x40' in size.

The pool is open from ten a. m. to ten p. m. A charge of ten cents is made for soap and towel and there is an additional charge if the bather does not bring a suit.



Tampa, Florida

Essex County, N.Y., Adds to Its Forest System

Essex County, New York, has recently acquired 516 acres of land from a private estate in the town of Lewis to be added to its system of county forests, authorized in June, 1927, by the Board of Supervisors. A tract of 40 acres was re-forested last year.

The purposes for which Essex County is establishing a system of county forests, as set forth in the resolution adopted by the Supervisors, are the sale of forest products in aid of the public revenues and the protection of the watersheds of the county, the prevention of damage from storms, floods and erosion and assisting in re-establishing the fertility of the soil and providing homes for game and fish. The county has a definite policy of acquiring and re-foresting suitable land each year until such time as the county shall have a productive forest, giving revenue to lessen materially the burden of taxation.

The profits of municipal forests are well known in Europe, where they have been operated for several centuries. The average net profit from town-owned forests in Europe is given as \$5.00 per acre per year, and many community forests in Switzerland yield as high as \$8.00. In Zurich there is a city forest of 4,200 acres that has been under forest management for more than 1,000 years and yields a net annual revenue of from \$20,000 to \$30,000 which is at the rate of from \$4.70 to \$7.00 per acre per year.

Even the routine activities of life acquire significance in proportion to the emotional coloring that can be added to them. And the leisure moments are vacant or rich according as they are filled with activities prompted by impulse or by abiding interests.

The lack of taste for music or art or poetry or drama leaves one distinctly uncomfortable in the presence of those who have learned to appreciate these sources of enjoyment. One who is bored by another topic than his own shop talk or hobby is likely to find many an uninteresting hour in his recreation periods. The loss of interest in play is certain to prove a distinct handicap in both mental and physical health.

From an address by Harold Saxe Tuttle on "The Rights of the Child—Attitudes"

A Memorial to Rowland G. Hazard

A most fitting memorial to a man who was long a friend of the playground and recreation movement and always ready to help, was dedicated when Old Mountain Field in Peace Dale, was given the townspeople of Peace Dale, Wakefield and Rocky Brook, Rhode Island. The gift was made in memory of Rowland G. Hazard by his wife, Mary G. Hazard. The tablet on Tipping Rock, unveiled by T. Pierrepont Hazard, younger son of Mrs. R. G. Hazard, bears the inscription—

In Memory of
Rowland Gibson Hazard
These Woods and Fields
He Loved, Are Dedicated
By His Wife
As a Sanctuary for Birds
And a Place of Rest
And Refreshment for All

1929

In presenting the gift, Mrs. Hazard said: "Those who knew Rowland G. Hazard could not fail to be conscious of his keen joy in outdoor life; his love of woods and trees and especially of birds whose habits he studied all of his life and whose songs he knew. He was devoted to outdoor sports and he and his brother had one of the first tennis courts in the country when they were boys. Above all he loved this village of Peace Dale and took keen interest in it and the young people growing up in it. His heart was in this countryside and he rejoiced to feel and call himself a country man.

"It seemed appropriate in seeking a memorial to my husband to choose this spot of which he was particularly fond and to dedicate it to the interests he would have liked to foster."

At the entrance to Old Mountain Field, which will serve primarily as an athletic field, is a picturesque grove with rustic seats, and from this point winding paths lead, one to Tipping Rock on the brow of a hill overlooking a beautiful grove of trees, and the other to the baseball diamond, tennis courts and basketball courts. Beneath the grandstands are lavatory and dressing rooms and outside is a bubbling drinking fountain. Steps and seats have been cut in the ledge overlooking the reservoir at the east end of the field. A supervisor is in charge and in summer there is a swimming instructor.



DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL TO ROWLAND G. HAZARD, WHO CARED FOR THE CHILDREN OF RHODE ISLAND

Recreation and the Church

In connection with the recreation survey of Indianapolis which is being financed by the Indianapolis Foundation and conducted by Eugene T. Lies of the P. R. A. A., the Church Federation of the city published the following advertisement in the *Indianapolis News*:

"Recreation is recognized by the church as one of the necessities of a balanced character. There is something lacking in the man who cannot play. Man's time is spent normally either at work or at play. Work is life's serious business, and most of the time must be spent at it. But all of our time dare not be. The string on the violin must be unstrung, the roast is not the entire meal though it be the most important part of it. There must

be dessert, and flowers are not out of place. They brighten it up and make it more desirable. Recreation serves its end when it sends men back to their work with keener relish. Recreation recreates. In this type the church is interested.

"The unfortunate situation is that some of our fellow citizens abuse their privilege. They take this means for health and wholesomeness and prostitute it for their own gain. Their purpose in starting a poolroom, or building a park or amusement place, or any type of recreational center is for no other person's health but their own. It soon appears in some ingenious device with which to fleece patrons. This attitude will debase any enterprise, and soon remove the good there may be in it. This will make a poolroom a school of vice. This is the principal concern in the dog-racing game, or in gambling of any description. The lust for profit is the arch-enemy of wholesome recreation."



GOOD WIFE: LOOK TO YOUR WORK NOW OR IT WILL BE THE WORSE FOR US ALL

An Adventure in Drama

This summer a group of young New Englanders of Salisbury, Connecticut, and vicinity went back into the middle ages and brought good King Alfred back to their hills to re-enact the old story of a king who got his ears boxed for allowing cakes to scorch. And with the old tale they brought drama to the children of their country-side.

Under the supervision of Wilbert R. Hemmerly, Director of Recreation, a playground dramatics demonstration was held in August, resulting in the immediate organization of drama groups not only among playground children but in the Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations of the locality. Thirty children responded to the call for actors and for the next two weeks the Hemmerly car, bearing children to and fro to rehearsals, had the appearance of a playground on wheels. In addition to *King Alfred and the Cakes*, *Patty and Her Rag Doll* and *Bruin's Inn*, a National Safety Council play, were presented. The Safety Council cooperated in lending animal costumes for the latter play and no sooner had they arrived and been tried

on than every rehearsal became a dress rehearsal, despite the fact that it was mid-August and the costumes were made of canton flannel.

Though very few of these children had ever participated in a play before, they worked with all the determination and zest of seasoned players at making their parts as perfect as could be. The little girl who took the part of the Goodwife in *King Alfred and the Cakes* was so mindful of the importance of stage business that she made little mud cakes and baked them in the sun days before the performance so that they would be ready for her in case

some emergency might arise on the day of performance and she might not be able to mold her meal and water into cakes in the time given her in that scene. The child who played the part of the fairy in *Patty and Her Rag Doll* was most particular that her wand should have the appearance of that important fairy accessory. A mere stick would never have power to perform the marvel of bringing a rag doll to life!

Mrs. Colin Ingersoll's group of Girl Scouts was so enthusiastic that they not only made plans for adding drama to their activities but definitely set a date for their first performance.



KING ALFRED: THE NEWS! I PRAY YOU, IF YOU LOVE ME SPEAK!



A "GARDEN OF FLOWERS"—THE PLAY FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY THE SALISBURY CONNECTICUT RECREATION COMMITTEE

Story Play

BY

GEORGINE FINK

*Supervisor of Story Play
San Francisco Playground Commission*

The club room of the playground building is transformed into a fairy world. In one corner is the house of seven little dwarfs, in another is the chamber of the wicked queen, and in another is the wild forest where a huntsman is killing a wild boar. What does it matter that the dwarf's house is made of a series of chairs with one omitted for the window and door, and that the porridge bowls are paper boxes, or that the Queen's throne is a folding chair and her magic charms are in an imaginary golden bowl? A magic more powerful than the potent charms of a magician of old, the power of a child's imagination, has transformed that room into a fairy world.

The children in this fairy land are playing *Snow*

White and the Seven Dwarfs. Every week the story group is held on this playground, just as it is on many others, for the San Francisco Playgrounds have added story play as a regular activity of their Dramatic Department. In these groups stories are told the children and those that appeal to them are played out. Each child has an opportunity at one time or another to play all the characters. This is not acting—the children are not taking "parts"; they are playing. One child is Snow White, another the Queen, one the huntsman. Then there are the seven little dwarfs and the very Prince himself. These little people of the fairy world make their own houses, castles and forests where they will, and then play out the

story, saying what they feel the people in the story would say to one another. Many times as the same story is played and re-played new people are added, a lady-in-waiting, a king, servants, soldiers, court people. Many other tales are played: *Cinderella*, the *Three Bears*, the *Three Pigs*, *The Giant Who Had no Heart in His Body*, *Rumplestilskin*, and *Hansel and Gretel* are great favorites.

The imaginative quality of these story plays is a very subtle and elusive thing. Often a disturbance, an audience, or even an untimely suggestion on the part of the leader can destroy it. The work of the leader is to guide the play so that the child is kept imaginatively in the story person he is playing. This means that the play must have some organization although even this can be so directed that the child makes his own choice of the settings and situations. In some beginning groups the play is stiff and stilted because of the group's lack of imagination, and its desire to be told what to do at every step. So much depends upon the early education, both in the school and in the home. Some have been accustomed to direction at every turn; they actually are afraid to act on their own initiative. They have already, as young as they are, been molded into mere followers. Others have been taught dramatics or dancing where every movement was formal direction. Then it is a slow and gradual process to show them the joy of creating and the freedom of expression. Then again, it is the work of the leader to instill in them a group feeling so that the group may work together with unity.

There is no idea of a production in the mind of the leader as this play is going on. Nevertheless, when a group is creating freely and is able to hold to one tale for a time, playing it again and again with enjoyment, each time creating anew, then that group is ready to make that story into a play, if one is desired. When this point comes the leader, working carefully with them, can guide their actions and creations into play form—into scenes, and the story into the rhythm of the play with its logical sequence of action. Not that the child is conscious, at the beginning, of forming it into a production. On the contrary, it must always be kept in the realm of play. This makes it necessary for the leader to understand the play

form and by suggestion guide the children's play so it will later evolve into definite play form. When a play form has evolved the child will enjoy working out problems of production. Some very interesting situations will be developed which will be much lovelier in their childlike conception than a creation of an adult mind dealing with a child's story. For a child's play should be for a child audience.

In this type of a play the leader will discover some exquisite acting on the part of the children, who are really unconscious of the fact that they are acting—for they are still playing, living the person in the story. This submersion of self in a character is, after all, the essence of the art of acting, so often spoken of but so seldom gained. Here, too, will be found a sincere representation of the story in the child way, and not the superficial acting which results from the adult forcing upon the child his mature conception of how a child character should act. Nor is there any of the recitational or elocutionized acting which comes from the mere speaking of words memorized with the addition of some exterior actions he has been taught.

Everyone would admit that dramatics has this educational and character building value, yet it is also true that dramatics for the child, for the youth or adult, can do just as much harm as good, probably more if it is wrongly used. Rather keep the child out of dramatics entirely than in the wrong kind—the kind that tends to display it, to make it conscious of itself, to give it the opportunity to show off its so-called talents for the probation of an audience. But what a marvel it is to help the child to create and then to express what it has created, to have the power to use its imagination to the fullest, and to gain an insight into the wonderful world of literature and drama! And story play for the child is the introduction.

To create is to live. It is the living quality of whatever work the child may do later in life. It will give him true joy and power in whatever he attempts. Then should not the very essence of our dramatics with children be to help them to create in the realm of the imagination, to be free to express sincerely what they feel and think, and to have a rich and full imaginative life?

Children have an inalienable right to constructive joy—and that is a product of the playground.

HERBERT HOOVER.

Puppet Shows

BY CHARLES F. WELLS

"Puppetry"—what a wealth of fun, recreation, education and art is wrapped up in that word—a chance for dramatic, musical, handcraft and mechanical expression, all included in one activity. Little wonder that puppet-making and operating are becoming popular with dramatic clubs, art clubs and playground groups from one end of the country to the other. We find universities giving courses in puppetry, Little Theatres giving puppet shows, and playgrounds holding puppet tournaments. We have read of the work done in Houston, Texas, and Elmira, N. Y., in Marionette Plays, and only this past summer the South Park System of Chicago conducted a tournament for all of its playgrounds, with the children making the dolls, building the theaters and pulling the strings.

Puppetry is not an activity for women and children alone, but is one in which men find pleasure. Recently the *Christian Science Monitor* printed an interesting account of how the men of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition had taken a course in puppetry before they sailed with the intention of making and operating dolls as a pastime while in the Antarctic for the next two years.

There are two popular kinds of puppet shows; in one the operator sits behind the screen with the puppets on his hands operating them after the fashion of the well known "Punch and Judy Shows"; in the other type the operator stands on an elevated platform and works the puppets below with strings. A few sketches and ideas will serve to illustrate the simplicity of construction and operation.

HAND PUPPETS

Wooden or papier maché heads are made with a hole in the neck for the operator's finger; the body and legs are cloth in proper color and design; the body is hollow and large enough to admit the operator's hand. The fore-arms and hands are wood with holes for the operator's fingers bored in them. The operator places his hand in the body with the second finger in the head, and the first and third fingers in the arms. By proper manipulation of the fingers, the head and arms of the puppet are moved to fit the action of the play. A skirt fastened to the body in back of the legs covers the operator's arm.

THE HAND PUPPET THEATER

A hand puppet theater is built after the style of the "Punch" shows. A frame about 6 feet high, 4 feet wide and 3 feet deep is covered with cloth or draperies, with an opening 3 feet wide and 2 feet high, 6 inches from the top for the stage opening. The ceiling and the three walls of the stage are covered with colored cloth, and the floor of the stage is a narrow board near the opening, the backstage having no floor. The operator sits inside of frame without being visible and works the puppets on his hands, holding them raised above his head in such a way that they appear to be playing on the narrow stage, while in reality they are walking in air where the stage has no floor.

STRING-OPERATED PUPPETS

These dolls have a more complete body and their actions can be made very life-like. The heads are similar to the hand-operated puppets and the body is made as simple or complete as desired. The body is a block of wood, soft pine or any other material easily worked, shaped with a plane and knife after the human body. Tony Sarg, the famous puppeteer, suggests having the body in two parts, chest and hips hinged together that the body may bend naturally. The arms and legs are pieces of broomstick or round sticks whittled down in proportion to the body and loosely jointed with small screw eyes fastened together. The elbow and knee joints may have natural bending by cutting a notch in the upper part and a tip in the lower, and fastening one in the other with a pin through the two, holding them together. Hands and feet, with shoes already on are carved and fastened to the ends of the appendages. The dolls are dressed in costumes to fit the play—the clothes usually made of remnants and scraps easily procured. The puppets are operated from above with black linen threads fastened to the knees for walking, to the wrists for arm action, and to the head for supporting the whole body. Strings fastened to two wooden sticks a foot long facilitate operation. The leg-strings are fastened to the ends of one stick, the other three to the second stick, the head string in the center and the arm strings at the ends. To

operate the puppet the head and arm stick is held in the right hand with the doll's feet just touching the floor, and the leg stick is in the left hand, which is wiggled up and down to make the puppet walk or dance. As the doll is operated the operator above gives the lines to fit the play being enacted.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE HEADS

Frequently wooden or cloth dolls' heads can be bought at a toy shop to use on the puppets, but it is usually more satisfactory and more fun to make them as follows:

No. 1. Model the head as wanted in clay, plastoline, O-Model-O or any kind of modeling clay.

No. 2. The clay model is greased with vaseline and the front half is pressed into a thick mixture of plaster of Paris and left until the plaster is hard. It is then lifted out.

No. 3. The back half of the model is pressed into another mixture of plaster of Paris and left until the mold is hard.

No. 4. This leaves two concave molds—one of the front and the other of the back of the head.

No. 5. Papier maché or plastic wood is then pressed into the mold, which has been greased, and left until dry.

No. 6. When dry the two pieces are picked out of the molds and glued together, thus completing the head.

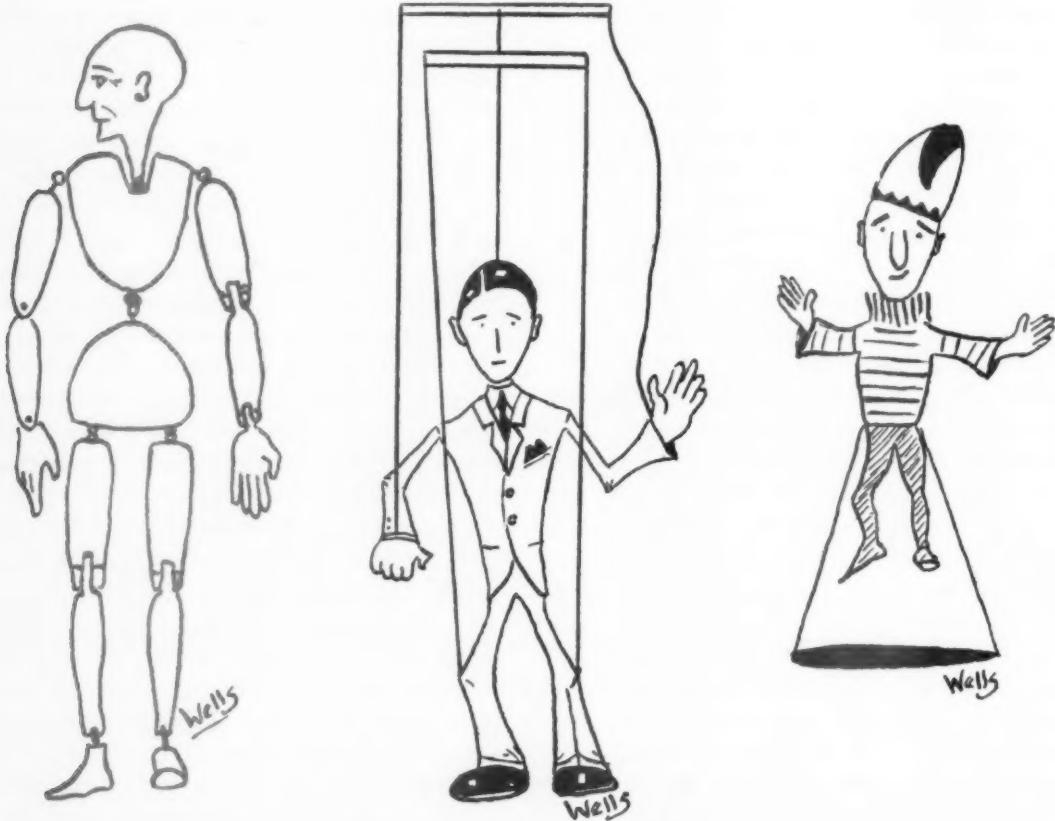
No. 7. Sandpaper and paint are desired with oil paints or tempera. Hair may be painted on, or theatrical crepe hair may be glued on.

Papier maché is made of small pieces of soaked newspaper mixed with dry glue, flour and corn-starch and cooked in a double boiler.

Plastic wood, used in mending furniture, may be purchased at furniture and hardware stores. "Works like putty—dries like wood." It is put up in 35c and \$1.00 cans. A large can makes about four heads.

STRING PUPPET THEATER

The stages are usually made of a wooden dry-goods box or frame 1 foot high, 5 feet long and 3 feet wide. At the side nearest the audience an opening is made of beaver board with a stage opening 4 feet long and 3 feet high. The proscenium is decorated with paint—either in plain colors or designs. Some are given a rough effect by plastering papier maché on the front and then painting to give a polychrome effect, i. e., plain colored base with the high spots touched with gilt or some other color. The front curtains may be velvetine, velour, denim, rep or canton flannel



strung on wires just inside the opening. The scenery is made of cloth drapes or cardboard with a scene painted upon it. All furniture and properties used on the stage is in proportion to the size of the puppets. The stage, scenery, furniture and properties are made from scrap pieces of materials; thus the cost of the entire show is cut down. The average cost of the nineteen puppet shows made on the Chicago playgrounds was \$3.00. This covered the cost of paint, glue, nails, screws and similar articles. A curtain hung down to the top of the theater will shield the operators who stand on a platform behind the stage while working the puppets.

The puppet theater may be lighted with strings of Christmas tree lights or by several desk lamps or plain bulbs behind the proscenium.

PLAYS SUITABLE FOR PUPPET SHOWS

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> | <i>Goldilocks and the Three</i> |
| <i>Snow White</i> | <i>Bears</i> |
| <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i> | <i>Little Bo Peep</i> |
| <i>Hansel and Gretel</i> | <i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i> |
| <i>Arabian Night Stories</i> | <i>Mother Goose Stories</i> |
| <i>The Shoemaker and the Elves</i> | |

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Milwaukee's Young People's Symphony Orchestra

Milwaukee has a Civic Music Association of about 350 members, composed of music teachers and supervisors, directors of orchestras and other musicians, each of whom pay \$2.00 a year toward the cause of the advancement of music in the city. In October, 1927, the Association organized a Young People's Symphony Orchestra, primarily for the graduates of high school instrumental organizations, but others are permitted to join.

The Association secured the names of all young men and women graduates who had played in a high school orchestra during the past few years.

About 200 were asked by letter whether they would be interested in playing in an orchestra if an excellent leader could be secured. One hundred and fifty-five replied that they would be interested. They were invited to a dinner in the auditorium where they were addressed by the president of the Association, by the supervisor of music and by Rudolph Kopp, who was to be director of the orchestra. This was followed by a discussion. No one in the orchestra was to pay anything for the privilege of membership, but it was agreed that each one was to deposit \$3.00, which would be returned at the end of the year if not more than three rehearsals were missed. Eighty immediately enrolled as members.

No examination for entrance was given the first year. The conductor divided the orchestra into two groups and the smaller, more elementary group was put in charge of an assistant director, though Mr. Kopp sometimes directed this group. The two groups practiced on the same evenings in different rooms of the auditorium and were combined for some selections. During the past year examinations were given on two evenings before the first rehearsal. The members were notified of this examination the preceding spring and many of them practiced during the summer. A few failed to return in the fall, but of those who came not one was rejected, and the group was on the whole remarkably improved after the first year.

One of the conservatories by special arrangement sends pupils to play in the orchestra and near the end of the first year several capable high school students were admitted to help in the orchestra's contribution to the Saengerfest which was to be held in the city. High school students are permitted to enter the orchestra if they are capable, and have written permission from the high school music supervisor.

Entrance requirements are that members shall be sixteen years of age or over. Seventy-five per cent. of the members are under twenty-one. Most of them are employed and trades and professions of all kinds are represented. There are twelve nationalities enrolled. Not more than ten or twelve are preparing to be professional performers.

Neither the orchestra leader nor his assistant was paid during the first year and a half and the music and other incidental expenses were provided for by the funds of the Civic Music Association. Beginning January 1, 1929, however, the city appropriated \$3,000 for the salaries of the conductors and the purchase of instruments.

The Place of Tennis in the Recreation Program*

By

B. E. BARRET

*President, Shreveport, Louisiana, Municipal
Tennis Club*

The first consideration in deciding what place should be given any particular sport is to determine what the essential features of the game are.

The first essential feature of tennis as a game is that it is the one true international sport. The Davis cup represents the international trophy of tennis, the final challenge for that cup in every nation of the globe. That means that wherever the tennis fan may go, he will find the game ready to receive him.

The second outstanding fact about tennis is that it holds the highest ideal of sportsmanship known to the sporting world. The history of tennis shows that it is about 400 years old under the name of tennis and under other names it goes still further back. In the works of an Italian sculptor in the year 1559, it is reported that a certain admirer had presented him with an estate and its tennis courts. For nearly 400 years tennis has been played by the highest type of sportsman, and it has built up a tradition of fair play unequaled in the sporting world.

Tennis is a game which ordinarily adjusts itself to the individual. The better you play and the better opponents you select, the more running you do, the more exercise you get and the harder you hit the ball. The fact that tennis does adjust itself to the individual player relieves officials of responsibility for change in equipment and rules to suit different individuals.

Tennis is a national game, open to the entire human race. It is adaptable to everyone's purse. Some players may want new balls every day or a new racquet every ten days, but the boy with the paper route may play for weeks with the same ball and get an equal amount of pleasure out of it.

*Extracts from address given at the convention of the Southwestern District Recreation Workers held under the auspices of the P.R.A.A. at Shreveport, Louisiana.

Another advantage of tennis is that it exercises the mind as well as the body. Tilden has said that three-fourths is psychology and exercise of mind and one-fourth technical skill. And that is true.

The question arises, what results can be expected from tennis? You can expect, and justifiably, every benefit from tennis which can be attained from the fullest exercise of both mind and body in the open air and sunlight plus constant training in the school of sportsmanship. You may expect the result of health—of fair play; no other factors can be more important.

How can you best secure these results? The first thing one must do is to furnish the courts, not just any courts, but proper ones. These courts are going to be a school of health and of sportsmanship and will absorb the interest of anyone who plays. Having finished the courts, the next step is that of instruction in tennis. In the past two years we have attempted to develop in Shreveport systematic group instruction, working it out along the line of physical exercise given in the army. The students are lined up and taught the proper movement of arms before they touch the ball, learning how to make the movement of the wrist rhythmical and perfect. The great difficulty has been that there are only about five capable instructors available in the country and instruction has been a very haphazard thing. With several proficient instructors giving group instruction, many people will be drawn into the game.

The next question is competition, which is the life of sports as well as trade. If you hold annual tournaments, you will gather about you tennis enthusiasts as you can through no other channel.

Croquet Golf

By

C. P. L. NICHOLLS

Supervisor of Aquatics, Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department

One of the most popular of the facilities maintained by the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department is Camp Radford, a mountain camp located in the San Bernardino mountains less than a hundred miles from the city. This camp which serves family groups, can accommodate from 250 to 300 campers. The outings are of two weeks' durations with a cost last year to the municipality of a little in excess of thirty cents per day for each camper.

Among the many activities last year at the camp was the new game of croquet golf, voted the most popular of any of the outdoor games on the camp program. The course was laid out in rolling knolls, the greens being sand greens approximately fifteen to twenty feet in diameter. Two quart tin cans set in the middle of the green served as holes, which were marked with a piece of gas pipe driven into the margin of the green forming a six foot post for the hole number to be placed upon.

The course consisted of eighteen holes from fifteen to forty yards apart. Where there was a downward slope between two holes, they were located farther apart; if the ground sloped upward the holes were placed closer together. The holes were so placed that it took approximately two or three shorts to make a hole in par.

There were no obstructions such as sand bunkers. The fairways between the holes were raked smooth and hazards were formed by the slope of the ground, plus its consistency—whether sand, gravel, hard or soft. We found it advantageous to arrange the majority of our greens underneath a wide spreading oak or pine tree, which made an excellent resting place for players during the game, and we arranged benches by the greens for resting places so the players could talk over their game. We did not use any teeing off places but teed off for the next hole from the margin of the green of the hole just finished.

For equipment we finally decided on a steel rimmed, long handled roque mallet and a composition cork field hockey ball. The mallet will last

indefinitely as the steel rim prevents splitting at the end. The cork field hockey ball has plenty of resilience. With its coat of white enamel paint it can be easily seen and will last with hard usage from ten days to two weeks.

We found a Chinese rake very useful in raking out all the little pebbles, stones and sticks from the green itself. The more care used in keeping the green level and well cared for, the more accurate the putting becomes and the greater the popularity of the game.

The skill of the game consists in judging the force of the shot plus the angle of the ground, or the slope of the ground plus the resistance it will have on the course of the ball.

In promoting the game we used the regulation promotional events such as hole in one club, special tournaments and low score championships. We found that the course was in constant use from before breakfast until dark and that the game became so popular that many of the campers have adapted it to their backyard playgrounds.

A Faithful Volunteer

Mrs. Christine E. Richens of the editorial staff of the Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, *Press*, writes of the volunteer service which one resident of the city is giving the recreation movement.

More than a year ago a \$2,000 award was given Lock Haven by the Harmon Foundation. Living near the playground site purchased with the fund, is George E. Drash, a Czecho-Slovakian by birth, who several years ago represented his native country as a runner in the Olympic Games. Mr. Drash, in common with the other citizens of Lock Haven, feels a great pride in Harmon Field and has kept a watchful eye on it since its opening.

In the spring Mr. Drash told the Playground Committee that he had driven away irresponsible persons going to the Harmon playground at night but had no authority to compel them to leave. He was, therefore, at his own request, appointed as special policeman without pay to guard the field. Mr. Drash, who is employed as a telegraph operator at a point twelve miles away from Lock Haven, works from eight a. m. to four p. m., travels twelve miles home and then begins his service as special policeman, remaining until the field is closed to the public, sometimes at eleven o'clock at night. His action is typical of the attitude of the entire city towards its play field.

Securing Public Understanding and Support*

By

RAYMOND ROBERTSON

*Superintendent of Recreation, Oakland,
California*

Recreation departments seek public understanding to bring about better service in the personal conduct of the work, to secure new laws which will improve conditions within the department and to obtain the necessary financial support to carry on the work. Our business as recreation executives is not only to present information to the general public but to see that this information becomes embedded in the minds of those individuals most likely to take action regarding it. Citizens are demanding that a city government furnish playgrounds for them. The city in turn needs the cooperation of all of these stockholders. To secure their attention requires an aggressive process of overcoming indifference and creating an understanding of the value of the program. These responsibilities are among the administrative problems that fall to the lot of the superintendent of recreation.

The more we know about the interests of the community, its social and racial background, the degree of education that has been attained and its financial structure, the greater our opportunities will be for helping people to understand and adopt the program we are trying to develop. A first hand knowledge of the neighborhood in which the playground is located is one of the fundamentals for achieving success. It is quite necessary that the playground director be familiar with the conditions of the environment of the playground. The ability and personality of the supervisor is reflected in the atmosphere of the community he serves. The patrons of his playground will be loyal and cooperative largely to the extent to which the supervisor has won their confidence and friendship.

The personnel in our departments should lend invaluable aid in our problem of securing public understanding. The well trained playground di-

rector can be of service in his contacts with the public in strengthening good will and molding public opinion. He is our special agent in upholding the fine ideals and spirit of play.

Cooperation is a big factor in securing public understanding and support. This cooperation shows itself in an effort to improve civic conditions and promote cooperation among organizations which have a tremendous advantage over individuals in securing action on definite problems in which they may be interested. The recreation movement in a community cannot come into its greatest service until the organized groups of that community unite in accepting the responsibility for making recreation a vital part of the life of the people.

Favorable public opinion is developed toward an organization that uses educational publicity rather than propaganda to build up an intelligent knowledge of its activities. A continuous form of educational publicity is one of the very important foundations upon which we can build a public understanding of recreation problems. The best type of publicity seeks to tell the public what we are doing, when we are doing it, and tends to arouse interest. In developing a plan of procedure we must attract the attention of our public, then we must hold that attention by making ourselves understood. It is not enough to create good will and favorable public opinion.

The daily press is ranked first in importance among the means of forming public opinion. Large numbers may be reached once by talks and other ways, but there must be a continuous follow-up program to hold interest and secure the needed response. Our information must be non-technical; it must give a clear picture; it must inspire confidence in our organization so that it will establish the free relationship we seek. We must not become so absorbed in getting information into print as to grow careless about the accuracy

*Extracts from address given at Recreation Conference, Western Division, P.R.A.A. held at Berkeley, California, April, 1929.

of facts. Truthful statements, clearly presented, and a sound program of action are fundamentals of good publicity, and this applies to public addresses as well. We must not underestimate the value of going directly before the audience and telling of the work we are doing.

The Playground and Recreation Association of America gives to the recreation movement national prestige that is valuable in promoting the work in any given community. Playground training courses designed primarily to give training to our workers are also worthwhile from the viewpoint of public understanding.

Our own Boards of Playground Directors give us invaluable aid in our contacts with the public. They act as a link between our city department and the citizens of the community. In an advisory capacity they render invaluable service in formulating and furthering policies.

Business men have sometimes been justified in their criticism of municipal departments and various social agencies on the ground that they are visionary and impractical. If we are to build solidly we must recognize the economic factors which vitally affect all sections of the city. Land values, the nature and the location of industries, the unemployment situation, the local wage rates and the standards of living, are all conditions which affect the economic status of our cities and they are all interwoven with the problems of recreational progress. If we seem to detach ourselves from the vital problems that concern our community, then our success is apt to wane. The city that has an industrial decline cannot increase taxes to support municipal functions. Park and recreation areas are for the benefit of the future generations as well as our own and it is perfectly legitimate that a portion of the cost should fall on the future citizens of the community through purchasing areas now and bonding them for later payment. Civic workers should emphasize the economic advantages that are closely associated with the enhancement of property values adjacent, and should endeavor to secure more and better recreation areas.

However, after all is said, our task is a social one and not an economic one. We are not employed to promote industry; we are paid to promote, guide and direct activities which will bring health, happiness and a more complete life to our people. So whatever the economic status of our city may be, our leadership is needed primarily to arouse the community to a recognition of its needs and responsibilities. In other words, parks

and playgrounds are a legitimate and necessary public expense and by a system of business efficiency and a budget control we should have set aside each year adequate funds to provide community recreation for every man, woman, and child.

Play and Religion*

The philosophy of play was praised by the Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, pastor of the Park Avenue Baptist Church, in the address he delivered yesterday afternoon to the graduating class of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, at the Academy of Music. Reminding the graduates that all beauty in art, architecture and music had been achieved in the spirit of play—that is, the margin of enthusiasm felt by the workers after the necessities of life had been met—Dr. Fosdick said two fields of modern activity were still in need of the spirit of play. He named them as religion and citizenship.

The real cause of the crime wave in New York City, he said, was the lack of play opportunity for children. Of every 100 boys in the city, eighty percent habitually pass their time on the streets, where fifty percent of their occupations were "hostile to moral health" and twenty percent actually law breaking, he said.

"The thing that impresses me most about modern schools and colleges," he said, "is the opportunity they afford in developing the play side of life, the right use of one's time after the necessities of life have been met."

Much of modern religion, said the speaker, was futile because it failed in the philosophy of play. Either it was too utilitarian or too somber.

"There should be fun in religion. It should bounce," he said. "When you contemplate the law of the universe and have faith in the eternal laws of goodness and beauty, you perceive the religious life to be a field for a great adventure. A humdrum religion is just as good as no religion at all, sometimes a lot worse."

The second field in which modern youth should enter in the spirit of play, according to Dr. Fosdick, is politics, especially the field of international relations.

"The most exciting game for this new generation is going to be bringing our international organization up to date, so that it will be in accord with the facts of modern life."

Summary of Study of Three Oak Park Playgrounds*

At the request of Miss Josephine Blackstock, Director of the Playground Board of Oak Park, a recreational study was made by the Illinois Institute of Juvenile Research, Department of Recreation, of twenty-four children on three of the four playgrounds, namely: Carroll, Anderson and Eugene Field.

The purpose of the study was:

To determine their play interest as far as possible in a short interview.

To determine whether or not the programs, as arranged by the leaders were filling the needs of the children.

To learn something of their family background, as it might affect their recreation.

A few special behavior problem children who frequent the playgrounds were interviewed also in order to make recommendations as to the best way of handling them and helping them to adjust.

Of the twenty-four children interviewed, fifteen were boys and nine girls. The majority of children were in the age group from nine to sixteen. Seven were under nine and one over sixteen. All the children go to the playgrounds because they want to and have a good time, on the whole. The younger ones interviewed say they go every day. A few of the older ones go only for club meetings.

Twelve of the children have no criticisms or suggestions to make regarding the equipment. Of the other twelve, seven wished they had a deep swimming pool. Other suggestions were as follows: soccer field, traveling rings, monkey apparatus, jumping stands where they could be used, radio in the shelter house, basketball, shotput, more table games, new baseball oftener, pool table, and basketball standards. Two of the children complained that they did not have the use of the equipment all they wanted because the leader was often not there.

GROUP PREFERENCES

The majority of the children prefer to play with a group varying from two to six—except when playing games such as baseball in which a larger group is required.

Thirteen preferred to play with their own age; five expressed a preference to be with older children and six liked to be with a group of all ages (within three or four years of their own age). None liked to play with children younger than themselves. Of the fifteen boys, eight definitely said they did not like to have the girls play with them—six liked to have them around for parties only, and only one expressed any desire for game participation with them and then "if good at the game." Of the nine girls only two did not like to play with the boys. The rest, except for one who was indifferent, liked it.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Five of the twenty-five children have never belonged to any clubs on the playground. Four of these would like to—the other one is a mentally retarded child. Thirteen belong to clubs now. Six belonged to clubs in the past but not at present—of these five would like to have the clubs reorganized or to belong to them again.

Only eight of the children belong to supervised clubs away from the playground. They are: Scouts, six; Y. M. C. A., one, and church, one. Four formerly were Scouts and three members of the Y. M. C. A.

ACTIVITIES

The activities indulged in at the playgrounds include the usual athletic games, and sewing, cooking, manual work, dancing, table games, reading, some non-athletic games, acting, and singing. Not all of these took place on each playground. The activity most generally played is baseball. Two boys expressed the wish that they could play football—there being no room on that playground. Another wished the volley ball nets were put up more often. Another wished that basketball games between the playgrounds could be arranged. There was also a request for more games in the other sports. Lessons in the following things were requested by the children: art, manual training, tennis, bridge, cooking (requested by a boy), and card games. One boy said that of the things he had made in one class—blotter ends, nothing had been returned to him.

LEADERSHIP

Ten children liked to have the leader plan their activities.

Six preferred to organize their own.

Six preferred to plan them with the aid of the leader.

Two preferred to have the leader organize them but with reservations.

Twenty liked to have the leaders play with them.

Two did not like to have the leaders play with them.

One was indifferent.

One likes it "if they know how."

Eleven boys preferred a man leader.

Three boys had no preference.

One boy preferred a woman "because they take more interest. Men go with the big fellows only." (Twelve years old).

Seven girls preferred a woman.

One girl had no preference.

One girl thought they should have both.

Some criticisms and suggestions regarding the leaders are given in the children's own words:

"We had a leader who was not so sociable."

"The children get too many chances. Should be more strict."

"Should not boss them so much. Leave the children alone more and if the children don't obey—send them off the playground."

"They should let us play tackle on the ground. There should be more order in the house."

"Could make more of a pal of the fellows. Goes away so much—not around."

The children were asked what kind of leader they would like to have. Following are some of the qualifications as given by them:

"One that would go in for sports. Not jump on you if you make a mistake. Give you another chance."

"One that wouldn't bawl you out."

"A person who will do anything, fit into the group ideas."

"One that is not partial."

"A good sport. One of the bunch."

"Athletic kind."

"Someone who is fair."

"One that wouldn't be crabby."

"One that keeps the equipment up and gives places to play and has activities throughout the summer."

"Somebody that is young and can jump around quickly."

"One who fits in and doesn't go bragging about himself."

"One who shows you how things are done and is sympathetic."

"A fellow that could make them mind but could play with the fellows."

"One who will play with us and have time."

CONCLUSIONS

Family Background

It was not possible to get a very clear picture of the family backgrounds of these children in the short interview. However, as compared with the general run of children interviewed at the Institute for Juvenile Research, they were found to have:

- a. Ample play equipment in the homes
- b. Frequent recreation as a family group

Children's Response

Nearly all the children interviewed talked freely and seemed interested in giving the information desired. It was felt, however, that some of the suggestions regarding the play equipment were not so much a long felt need on their part as a desire to ask for something while they had an opportunity. The interview was made quite voluntary, and the interviewer attempted as far as possible to strike the impersonal note in discussing the children's attitude toward leadership.

Club Membership

Almost all of the children want club membership—though only fifty percent actually belong at the present time. Only a third of those interviewed have outside club membership, and most of these are Scouts.

Activities

Athletic play predominates, but there is a definite desire for more indoor activities such as art work and manual training.

Leadership

About fifty percent prefer to have the leaders plan the activities, and fifty percent like to, at least, play a part in the planning. The majority like to have the leaders play with them. With only a few exceptions the boys preferred a man leader and the girls a woman leader. Of the

significant replies in regard to qualities desired in a leader, ten were personality qualifications, and five referred to skill in or time for sports.

A Survey of Denver's Recreation Facilities

The Denver Planning Commission in a report entitled, *Preliminary Report on a Major Recreational Facilities Plan*, dated March, 1929, has embodied the third proposal presented since the Commission began the development of comprehensive plan for Denver. The plan recommended proposes as its essence a centralization of facilities to supply all of the community recreational needs. It urges the coordination of agencies now caring for recreation needs and the establishment of a completely equipped major recreation center located in a park in each of the thirty-three districts or communities of the city.

Each center, it is suggested, must be equipped for play, sports and cultural activities, and should provide the following facilities:

- (a) Small children's corner, with sand boxes, swings, slides, apparatus, merry-go-rounds and outdoor gymnasia.
- (b) Open spaces for indoor baseball, volleyball and basketball
- (c) Wading pool
- (d) Outdoor swimming pool
- (e) Tennis courts
- (f) Baseball and football fields
- (g) Horseshoe pitching courts, handball courts, bowling field, croquet court
- (h) Open lawns where storytelling is possible

The entire layout must be carefully screened from city streets and noise. The playgrounds should have beautiful surroundings and well arranged flower gardens.

The building equipment must include:

- (a) Gymnasium for indoor play to be used by young and old at regulated intervals
- (b) Indoor swimming pool
- (c) A branch library in a separate wing
- (d) Rooms for storytelling and handwork
- (e) Rooms for art exhibits, music, reading of poetry and literature, and for dramatic activities

Radiating from each major recreational center is to be a system of smaller auxiliary playgrounds equipped to take care of small children who must

be served within a one-fourth mile radius of their homes.

The plan provides for adequate leadership. The major center is to be in charge of a capable general supervisor who not only directs all activities, but also informs the people of the district as to the program that is being carried out, arousing and holding the interest of all groups.

Under the district supervisor will be assistants who not only aid in the program at the major center, but also provide traveling, part-time supervision of the auxiliary grounds. The assistants are sent out to cover the smaller grounds at regular times, supervising the play and outlining further programs.

Know Your City

A personally conducted tour was one of the popular activities conducted in July by the Playground Commission of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. At least seventy-five representatives of various organizations in the city were taken in two large buses, donated by the local electric light company, to see the city's recreation facilities. Mr. Willard R. Hays, Superintendent of Recreation, rode in one bus and Mrs. Clare Nichols, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, in another, to answer the many questions which were asked. The tour began at 6:15 and ended before dark at one of the playgrounds where moving pictures were being shown. The following mimeographed itinerary was given each "tourist."

First Stop—Ellis Park Field—where we shall see the Industrial Diamond Ball League. Here you will see twelve teams play, part of the thirty-one teams comprising 500 men who play each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from May to September.

Second Stop—Harrison Playground Gardens.

Eight such gardens in various parts of the city are conducted with 900 children enrolled. Last season the total value of produce from these gardens exceeded \$1,000.00 at a cost to the city of about \$500.00. This activity alone pays a 100% dividend.

Third Stop—Harrison Playground

Fourth Stop—Roosevelt Playground—Minature Airplane Club, Archery Club

Fifth Stop—Fillmore Playground Garden

Sixth Stop—Crandic Park

Home of the city baseball league. This field was constructed jointly by the Iowa Railway and Light Corporation and the C. R. Playground Commission. Here six teams (80 men) play each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, drawing many spectators, as you will see today.

Seventh Stop—“J” Street Playground Garden
Eighth Stop—“Sinclair” Playground

Ninth Stop—Public Courts Tennis Club

Tenth Stop—Daniels Playground Garden

Here you will see many children at play.

Eleventh Stop—Daniels Playground

Junior League Baseball. Four team league composed of boys under seventeen years of age which we have sponsored through the co-operation of Legionnaires who have acted as coaches. Here we will inspect some of the hand work done by the children while at play.

Twelfth Stop—Riverside Playground. Here you will see a part of one of the regular family community nights which have been held each Tuesday evening for the past five years.

ing with the whole educational atmosphere of the fair, it was specified that this money was to be used for gardening, nature study, science equipment, or books. Prizes were awarded to individuals for the best displays of home-made animal cages and terrariums, biological principles, astronomy, geology, mounted and living insects, inventiveness and chemistry in the home and models illustrating physical principles. Group exhibitors vied in displaying gardens; conservation of forests, wild flowers, bird and wild animal life, parks, roadsides, industry, and health; biological principles; plants; artificial selection for improvement in plants; economic crops; and plant and animal life for class room use.

The American Institute fairs have been nationally known for the last century and it is a tribute to youth that the 100th annual fair of this body should be devoted to their interests.

Physical Education Legislation

Legislation for physical education has made rapid strides in the past few years. The National Physical Education Service reports that there are now thirty-six states with state laws covering ninety percent of the population of the country; thirty-one states with programs and syllabi covering eighty percent of the population, and twenty states with directors and departments of physical education teaching sixty-five percent of the population.

On September 1, 1929, Louis Kulcinski of the University of Illinois was appointed by Francis G. Blair, State Superintendent of Public Instruction as Assistant State Superintendent, in charge of physical education. Mr. Kulcinski is a trained physical educator and a recreation leader. This appointment makes Illinois the twentieth state to have a state director, staff and budget. Texas, which this year passed its law, is the newest comer on the list.

Arthur V. G. Upton is now State Director in West Virginia, succeeding Melville Stewart, who is now at the University of West Virginia.

Dr. D. K. Oberteuffer is now state director of Ohio, succeeding Dr. Clifford Brownell, now assistant professor of physical education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Youth Proves Its Mettle

Ever growing confidence is being displayed in child ability, and correspondingly children are proving themselves increasingly worthy of confidence. The possibility of children's excelling otherwise than as musical and artistic prodigies, young authors, mathematical wizards, or chess "sharks" is apparent when such institutions as the School Nature League, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Board of Education of New York City join in sponsoring The American Institute Children's Fair to focus attention on the sciences and to foster a scientific interest in agriculture, gardening, nature study, and conservation.

The first fair of this kind, held last autumn at the American Museum of Natural History, was such a success that it was repeated on an appreciably augmented scale this year, from October 11-17. It was open to all boys and girls of New York City eighteen years of age or under. Schools, parks, and organizations might compete as groups.

Over \$3,000 was offered in prizes and, in keep-

Little Stories from the Playgrounds

A nine-year old girl came to a pet show on the Chicago playgrounds with a bottle of bugs and worms. Such a collection could hardly be called pets, but the exhibit represented determination and hard work on the part of this youngster. She told the children who made fun of her collection that they were all she had. It happened that the father of this child came home from work early that day. Passing the playground, he sauntered in to see what was going on. He was not altogether pleased that she was awarded a ribbon with the rest.

Ten days later this same child celebrated her birthday. Imagine her delight when the chief remembrance of the day was a woozy little puppy dog! The father was complimented on his wisdom and kindness of heart; the daughter was made happy, and the playground leader found much satisfaction in the cooperative adventure. —*Charles English, Superintendent of Recreation, Philadelphia.*

A poster contest was held on the Chicago playgrounds. At the end of a three week period, all of the better posters were brought together to be judged. Alice Wagner, a girl of twelve, represented her playground by submitting three of the most artistic water color posters the judges had ever seen. Her work so outclassed every other poster submitted that the judges set it aside. The chairman said, "This is not the work of a twelve year old child; therefore, we must throw it out of the competition." The others agreed.

But a member of the staff suggested that it was unfair to Alice to charge her with misrepresentation without a chance to appear before the committee. Two days later a special meeting was arranged. Alice brought her material along. Without apparent nervousness, she arranged her things for work and then, in a naïve way, asked the committee what subject they wished painted. She had won her battle right then. When the beautiful little landscape was done, the chairman, who was the head of the art department of the schools, asked Alice if she might have it. Alice was given first place in the contest. A month later the judges gave her an opportunity to secure a free art education. The only previous lessons she had had were given her by her father, whose hobby

was painting. For economic reasons, he had been unable to secure outside instruction for her. The playground was the medium through which Alice secured her big opportunity for art education.—*Charles English, Superintendent of Recreation, Philadelphia.*

A young French girl of poor family of low class environment attended a playground in Maine in the first summer I was there, and we found it very difficult to keep her from breaking the spirit of the playground and working against everything we did. Fortunately, the instructor on the playground soon got her definitely interested in the playground program. It was not long before she became a very effective leader. The eyes of the girl were opened to many of the good things of life that she had been missing and she returned to school in spite of the fact that she was over age for the class in which she was placed. From that time on she progressed rapidly and reported to us very often. At the end of the second summer we received a letter from this girl stating how much help she had received from the playground and what an influence it had been in her life, although she was finally forced to give up school because of the family need of her financial help. We were influential in securing a very good job for her in one of the factories, and at this time one of the YWCA workers became interested in the girl and, I know, was of great help to her. A recent communication from YWCA worker indicates that the girl has been doing some fine work in her job and has become a very valuable leader.—*Charles C. Wright, Director Community House, Bloomfield, New Jersey.*

A small girl at the play village of the Smith Memorial Playgrounds said, "I began in this village as a common mother, and now I'm the Mayor."—*Philadelphia, Pa.*

One speaker at the Recreation Congress (1928) said: "If we had more home play nights, the evils of the divorce court would be lessened."

A small curly headed boy came in the office of the Community House a few days ago and in a nervous manner opened the conversation: "I

did something out in the Boys' Club that I shouldn't have and I want to talk to you about it." "All right, son," replied the director, "go ahead." "I joined the Boys' Club about a month ago," said the boy, getting the load off his chest, "and lied about my age. I said I was twelve and I am only eleven. It bothered me a little so I thought I'd speak to you about it." A short talk with the boy giving him some advice and a little praise and above all permitting him to retain his membership sent him on his way happy in spirit and stronger in character. Leadership inspired this boy to be on the level. He discovered that honesty has its reward.—*Charles C. Wright, Director Community House, Bloomfield, New Jersey.*

William, aged twelve, was sent to the Recreation Club by the Judge of the Juvenile Court. With a group of three other boys of his age, he had broken into a building and taken a small sum of money from a desk in the office.

When he first came to the club, he just sat in one corner and disliked it very much, as he had a dislike for colored children and there were several in this club. It was very evident he knew nothing whatsoever about play. The supervisor soon discovered that he was talented in drawing. He was given crayons and before long he had quite an audience watching him draw on the black-board in the club room. One of the greatest admirers was a little colored chap named Charles. Every day William would entertain a certain group with his drawings, and being admired so much by the colored boys he soon lost his hatred for them.—*Sophie Fishback, Stamford, Conn.*

The first snow sculpture contest in Chicago was held in the winter of 1923. The children were requested to model any object except a snow man. Two new projects were offered the second winter: art windows and ice painting. The art windows were frozen colored water arranged on window glass, the effect being similar to art windows. When ice painting was suggested, a fourteen year old boy, Fritz Wagner, recently from Germany, tried the experiment. A frame was made in which the snow was packed. Water was sprinkled over the snow and set out in the open to freeze. Fritz secured some ordinary barn paint and with a borrowed brush set to work. His only experience up to that time was a fondness for drawing with pencil and a little water color painting with a set bought at the ten cent store and given him on

Christmas. Fritz always wanted to paint, but being one in a family of twelve children, his parents could not afford to secure lessons for him. He did receive some help from a teacher in the Lutheran School. After many discouraging hours, Fritz finally developed a method of making the paint stick to the icy surface. An excellent landscape resulted. The superintendent was called out to the playground to see what was later discovered to be the first attempt ever made to paint a landscape on ice. It was unique. The superintendent saw the value of getting this work known, so he put it in his car, and brought it to the office, placing it on the fire escape to prevent melting. The press was called in. Members of the staff of the Art Institute were invited to view this new form of art. So impressed were they that finally the head of the Institute offered Fritz a free scholarship at their school. Last year Fritz realized an ambition. One of his canvasses was hung in the annual exhibition of students.—*Charles English, Superintendent of Recreation, Philadelphia.*

John came to one of our recreation clubs about four years ago. At that time, he was very mischievous and hard to handle; not only in the club, but in school and at home he was the cause of much trouble. John lives in the poorest section of the city. One of his brothers has served time in the reformatory school, while another brother has served time in jail. Being athletically inclined, and very good in all sports, he was naturally a leader and was put in charge of different groups of boys. He soon became a member and Captain of the different athletic teams of the club and began to look forward to the time when he would go to High School and make the school teams.

One day a woman in the neighborhood complained to the police that her clothes line pole had been broken down, and this was blamed on John. Knowing he was at the club at the time it was done, the club supervisor sent to police headquarters to explain the situation. It meant a great deal to John to feel that others had confidence in him.

John was elected president of the club and was always ready to help in any way he could. The other boys seeing his attitude also changed a great deal. At the end of the winter season, he was the first one to suggest going out and helping to clean up the playground in that section. He is now sixteen years old, and in High School; president of the Sterling Athletic Club, and cap-

tain of the Sterling baseball and football teams. Whenever the supervisor has to leave the club house, John is left in charge and things are well taken care of.—*Sophie Fishback, Stamford, Conn.*

The Quaker Playground is located in the River Front District of Philadelphia. It is not far from Independence Hall. It was natural that the playground teachers should arrange a rather special celebration on July Fourth. The singing of *America* closed the program. In the group was a lad whose face indicated he was a child of foreign parents. His sturdy little face was turned slightly toward the sky as he huskily gave his version, "Land of the Children's pride."—*Charles English, Superintendent of Recreation, Philadelphia, Pa.*

For the Children Without Playgrounds

During the summer of 1929 the Philadelphia Playgrounds Association assumed the responsibility of providing play facilities for some of the forty percent of the city's children who have no playgrounds near their homes. This was done through the provision of a number of playgrounds, through the use of play streets, vacant lot play centers, street showers in all parts of the city, and through storytellers.

On the street playgrounds volley ball, box hockey, paddle tennis, quoits, checkers, folk dancing with portable phonograph, and street showers were the chief activities. Residents in the street play districts were glad to permit the storing of play equipment in their homes.

When the storytellers initiated their program they appeared in the peasant dress of the Italian. Their schedule of activities during the two hours at each location was divided about as follows: 1. story hour in which subtle moral objectives were incorporated in the story; 2. game period; teaching new games which the children could use daily; 3. handcraft period.

The storytellers stimulated the children to work on handcraft projects during their absence by showing them how to make objects for their play from discarded material such as paper boxes, scraps of cloth, cigar boxes and orange crates. At each session a new project was undertaken and the children returned with their achievements when

the storytellers next visited the neighborhood. While the storytellers met the children only twice a week, it was very evident on the second visit that the children had been occupied during the interval with their new games and handcraft.

Since the storytellers were of the traveling type, possibilities for playground materials and facilities were limited. Whistles, however, were an important part of their equipment and their use was not restricted to games but as a bugle call to announce their arrival. As the whistle sounded little heads poked out of windows promising an instant appearance.

Balloon Races in Chicago.—The Playground and Sports Division of the Chicago South Park Commissioners which for a number of years has held balloon races, last summer devised some interesting variations.

"We launched our toy balloons, inflated with hydrogen—ordinary balloons costing \$3.75 a gross—to the number of 300 or 400, on the twenty-ninth of June at eight-fifteen in the evening," writes V. K. Brown, Superintendent of Playgrounds and Sports. "So many balloons in past years have been reported as having been deflated and hardly noticeable, that we felt if they did the flying by night, and came down about twelve hours later, as seems to be the general history of them when they are launched, they would be more conspicuous, coming down in the morning and drifting about in daylight, people would see them and capture them. Instead of the small capsule with the folded note inside as the medium for carrying the message to the finder, we this year tied a printed card of small size on each balloon. The cards being serially numbered, we were able to identify the sender in each case. Returns are still coming in, but we have had letters now, one from North Carolina, two from Virginia, one from West Virginia, several from Ohio and quite a number from Indiana. The balloon which travelled the greatest distance came down close to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, but the one which is most interesting came from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, where it landed and was picked up at seven fifty-five next morning. In less than twelve hours, therefore, it had travelled approximately 600 miles. The University Weather Department is looking up the records for us to advise us as to what upper air strata the balloons reached in order to travel at this speed, and in the direction in which they were carried."

Suggestions for Thanksgiving Parties and for the Home Gathering

As Thanksgiving is primarily a home occasion the following suggestions are offered for games and stunts to be enjoyed before, during or after the home dinner, or, with a little variation, at larger gatherings.

A lively game of Thanksgiving charades will serve as a good wit and appetite sharpener and will help pass that seemingly endless time before the welcome call "Dinner is served," is heard. Divide the group into sides and let each group represent in pantomime and dialogue a word or combination of words to be guessed by the other side. After deciding upon a word and announcing the number of syllables in it, the actors perform the pantomime they have selected as suggestive of the meaning of the word chosen. Among the words which may be appropriately used at Thanksgiving are Pilgrim (pill-grim), Alden (awl-den), Puritan (pure-I-tan), Standish (Stan-dish), Pious (pie-us).

Another pre-dinner game which affords much merriment is "Nut Target Practice." In a dishpan place a round baking dish and inside that a tin cup. Have the players stand at a designated distance from the target and try to hit the bull's eye. Five nuts are the ammunition, and each one that lands in the cup counts five; each going into the dish, counts two, and each one landing in the dishpan, one. The player receiving the highest score is given the choice piece of turkey as a reward for his skill as marksman.

A game which may be played between courses around the table or after dinner is one which may be called "Indians." The leader begins by naming some letter of the alphabet; the next player adds a letter, always to the last letter given, looking toward the formation of a word. Each one in turn adds a letter, but must avoid any addition which would complete the word. If he does so, he becomes a "half-Indian." By the rules of the game, no one is allowed to speak to a half-Indian; if any player does so, he himself becomes a half-Indian. The half-Indians may continue playing, and may talk to anyone they please, but they may not be answered although they endeavor to trap others into conversation with them. If a player is obliged to add a letter that finishes a

word and is already a half-Indian, he becomes a whole Indian and must drop out of the game. He may still speak to members of the group; however, anyone answering him is penalized as before. The players are thereby rapidly eliminated from the game and the contest in word-making is narrowed down to two people, one of whom must, sooner or later, become a full Indian. It will soon be seen that the point of the game is to twist the words in such a fashion as to avoid adding any letter which might be a final one.

The games that are played after a Thanksgiving dinner certainly should not call for a great deal of physical activity. "Memory" and "Bunco," two very new games, are admirably suited to this particular period of active inactivity in a Thanksgiving program.

The first is played with any set of cards that contain pairs. The ambitious hostess may lend color to the party and enhance the game by making cards that are typical of this late fall and early winter season. One way to do this is to paste on colored cardboard pictures of Priscilla, John Alden or William Bradford, or pictures of turkeys, pumpkins, fruits and nuts. Number each card so that, with a limited number of pictures, there will be enough cards to make the game interesting. For instance, there will be, perhaps, fifteen pilgrims, fifteen pumpkins, fifteen John Aldens. The cards are turned face down on the table. The leader begins by turning up two cards. If they do not form a pair, the player picks them up and turns up two other cards; if these do not form a pair, they are turned down and the play goes on as before. The object of the game is to try to remember the location of the various cards, and, of course, to try to secure the highest number of pairs. For example, number one turns up card 2 and 4; not forming a pair, they are turned down again. Number two picks up card 4; remembering the position of the cards turned up by number one, she puts her own four with that of number one, and has the privilege of turning up two more cards. The cards turned up may be 11 and 3; the play now goes on to number three, and so on.

"Bunco," another table game, can also be

played by any number of people. Divide the group into two sides. The leader keeps score but does not play, except to select alternately the number which is to be "bunco" for that time. After the group has been evenly divided, the leader of one side may either select a number or throw the dice, the only equipment necessary for the game, and decide by the number that falls what number is to be "bunco" for that game. Each team then begins to play. Each player tries in one attempt to throw the number that the leader threw. If he is successful, he calls "Bunco," and is given a score of 5, 3 or 1, and the chance to throw again. If he fails, the next player tries his luck. As each player scores, the leader takes note of it. The team having the highest score after the last player has thrown is winner of that game. The next time, the leader of the other side has the privilege of either throwing for or selecting the number which is to be "Bunco" for the next game. This game is especially interesting when played as a progressive game. According to this plan, four people play together. The two with the highest score, at the ring of a bell, move on to the next table.

Note: The suggestions which have been offered have been taken from a bulletin issued by the Department of Recreation, Reading, Pennsylvania.

A FEW GAMES AND STUNTS FOR LARGER GATHERINGS

Nut Shelling Relay

The players are divided into two groups, one known as Puritans, the other as Indians. They stand in two straight lines. Several feet from the head of the line is a bag of peanuts. The first in line runs up, grabs a peanut, shells and eats it and goes to the end of the line. This continues until all the players have gone to the end of the line. The group finishing first wins.

Shoot the Turkey

Place a large turkey cutout on a wall, shoulder height. Prepare a number of small arrow cutouts and number each one consecutively. After the guests have removed their wraps, blindfold them one by one, turn them around three times and ask them to pin the arrow on the turkey. The one finding the best spot wins.

Turkey, Turkey, Turkey

Ask the group to form a circle. The leader, who takes his position as a member of the circle, asks each person to find out the names of his neighbors on his left and on his right. The leader then goes to the center of the circle and explains that when he points at some member of the circle and says, "Right, Turkey, Turkey, Turkey," the person pointed at must repeat his right hand neighbor's name before he finished saying "Turkey, Turkey, Turkey." If the person pointed at fails, he must take the leader's place in the circle and continue the same formula.

Catch the Turkey

Using the same circle formation, the leader asks one lady to be the "turkey" and a gentleman to be the "hunter." The hunter is blindfolded and tries to catch the turkey, who must gobble to give the hunter her location. When the turkey is caught she chooses a new "turkey" and the hunter chooses a new "hunter."

Hunt the Turkey

A number of turkey cutouts have been hidden about the room. The guests are told they will be allowed ten minutes to see which person can find the most turkeys.

Thanksgiving Menu

Each guest is provided with a pencil and paper and asked to write Thanksgiving menu using the letters in the word "Thanksgiving," to start each word of the menu—T-Turkey soup, H-hot rolls, A-applesauce.

(From the Pontiac, Michigan, Recreation Department.)

"Totlots."—This is the name under which the Playgrounds Association of Philadelphia has opened the first of a series of playgrounds for little children. What was once a refuse dump is now an area about eighteen feet by fifty feet with a low fence, a sand box and swings and other pieces of apparatus. One of the principal features is the entrance. No child who cannot walk under the top bar of the entrance without stooping is permitted to use the playground. In this way the ground is kept for the use of little children, for whom it was designed.

Trees and Recreation

H. J. NEALE

Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories

Re-creation is the act of creating anew. We may create new uses for muscles of our body but fully as important is creating new trends of thought, new viewpoints on life, new green fields for the imagination. Swinging a tennis racket or making a long, powerful drive in golf brings into action muscles and cords of the body which have become stale or flabby through disuse. Similarly, sensing the cooling shade of a tree or viewing a beautiful skyline in the evening brings into action powers of appreciation which have rested dormant perhaps for years.

The weary office worker, tired of the monotony of figures and statistics, may be in no condition for the high-pitched strain of active recreation. A walk through the park or woodland in the shade of trees with a flickering relief of sun ray is the finest type of recreation. For him this mode of relaxation creates anew the feeling for natural beauty and color which lies inert during his working day. The intense silence and dignity of the woods offer opportunity for flights of imagination, even fantasy. To the housewife or business man the recreation offered by trees is of a similar type; that of gently calling into play thoughts which have no outlet during working hours but which must have activity if a person is to come to a practical task each day with zest and enthusiasm. It is this form of recreation which Shakespeare mentions in his famous "As You Like It." The Duke, an exile to the Forest, weary of court intrigue, finds "tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything."

In organized recreational activities trees are officially accorded recognition. The Playground and Recreation Association of America has statistics to prove that playgrounds located in or amongst shade trees are utilized to a greater extent than those barren and devoid of trees. For example, in one of the large western cities the Statistical Department of the city kept an accurate record of the cost of maintenance of each playground on a per capita basis. There is an extensive playground system and there was one area devoid of trees. The play supervision, apparatus,

and general working conditions were the same on this playground as on the others, but the cost of operation per unit of attendance was over double that of any other playground in the system. Rather than eliminate any of the operative costs they appropriated funds for the embellishment of this playground and planting of trees with the remarkable result that the following season the attendance of this playground increased to such proportions as to bring the unit cost of operation below normal immediately. In other words, the influence of trees and shrubs on this one area proved that even children appreciate being in a natural environment.

Furthermore, in another city where the recreation department utilized both parks and school grounds, they found the attendance in the parks, under average conditions, to be greater than on any of the school playgrounds. In this case, as in many others in the United States, the school grounds were not embellished and had no trees on them.

To carry out a program of supervised recreation those in charge must offer an attractive location for their work. Everywhere educators and religious leaders are advocating proper natural opportunities for child recreation and emphasizing the immeasurable good derived from such programs. Dr. Fosdick, of New York City, when asked one time to state some of his views on the influences for good and intelligent living, said: "I know among the most saving influences of my own youth was the opportunity for wholesome play, so beautiful that I look back on it yet with boundless gratitude. No boy of that old gang went permanently wrong. Our play was right. We roamed the woods, we fished the streams. It was a great boyhood."

Nature Study programs are pursued in 146 cities having organized play at the present time. This work is supplemented by the labelling of trees and trails, educational talks, and study of landscape conditions. In addition, these programs include special exercises for Arbor Day with tree planting programs. Such work among our children cannot but be of vast influence on the future

beautification of our country. There will be a demand for the re-creating of nature in our busy cities, not with decrepit trees, but trees living and bristling with energy, green and full of vigor—mute evidences of Nature's gift to a world of beauty.

Playgrounds should have a wealth of trees in or around each of them. The effect of sufficient skyline or background produced by a planting of trees is important. Trees, properly located, keep the dust from permeating the air, eliminate noxious gases, lend charm, and provide shade for the watching mothers or for weakened children not able to stand the tax of constant play in the sunlight. Such trees many times screen off ugly buildings or, in larger areas, if skillfully planted, will blot out entire views of the surrounding city or town in such a manner as to give the impression that the area is miles away from the busy city life.

Preserving shade trees thus becomes more than giving posterity a heritage, it is giving ripe cheeks, red lips, and supple knees; it is furnishing temper of mind, vigor of emotion, and a freshness of the deeper springs of life. Conscientious and continued activity in shade tree perpetuation is one of the finest and most worthwhile types of endeavor. In the gigantic elm saved someone will find, in future years, inspiration for dignity of life and gracefulness of spiritual growth. In the massive oak or slender birch someone dazed and momentarily discouraged will be aided in re-creation of hopes and ideals. Surely the welfare of such instruments of physical betterment, mental relief, and spiritual inspiration, is worthy of our consideration.

Balloon Races in Detroit.—To interest the children of Detroit in aeronautics and particularly in the new type of all metal dirigible made in Detroit and recently turned over to the Navy Department, the Department of Recreation and the *Detroit Free Press* last summer conducted a helium gas balloon race. The *Free Press* furnished 10,000 balloons which were filled with helium, United States, Airship Safety Gas and released from four different play fields. Postcards were attached to the balloons asking the finder to fill out the blank and return it to the *Free Press*. Surprising distances were made by the balloons. The one winning first place for greatest distance was found at Franklinville, Maryland, approximately 425 miles from Detroit.

At the Conventions

Six countries were represented at the conference on the "Utilization of the Leisure Hours of the Workers" held at the International Labor Office in Geneva, March 19-20. Louis C. Schroeder, Secretary of Physical Education of the National Council of the Y. M. C. A., was the representative of the United States.

The chief subjects for discussion were the accomplishments of the various countries in the field of physical education and sport for the great masses of people, the question of medical control for sports, of corrective exercises for workers and of the part which the International Labor Office should play in this field.

All representatives felt that every worker has the right to leisure and that the government, state and municipality should furnish the means. There should be athletic fields and playgrounds within an easy reach which contain field houses, locker rooms, shower baths.

The summer camp was highly commended, and consideration was given not only to the vacation camp for the worker and his family, but also to the weekend camp.

It was the opinion of the group that a trained teacher in physical education and sports should be employed as the director of the athletic field, playground and camp. It was agreed that every worker participating in physical education and sports should first have a thorough medical examination.

It was felt that the schools have a special responsibility in impressing on every child, particularly those children trained in professional and vocational schools, the value of physical education and sports.

American Institute of Park Executives to Meet.—Airports, city planning, playground and recreation development, park bureau accomplishments and foreign and tropical plants are among the subjects which will be discussed at the 31st Annual Conference of the American Institute of Park Executives. Among the speakers at this meeting which will be held at Miami, Florida, November 18-21, will be Captain J. E. Whitbeck, Consulting Engineer, Pan-American Airways, Conrad L. Wirth, member of the National City Planning Commission, L. H. Weir, P. R. A. A. and Foster Jacoby, Director of Parks, Dallas, Texas.

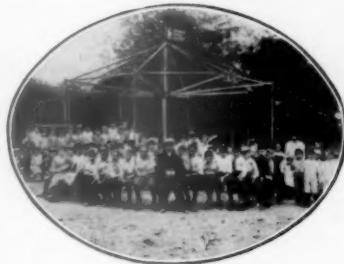
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Book Reviews

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING, NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1201 Sixteenth Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C. Price \$2.00

The reports of the general session of the annual meeting held in Washington, in May, 1929, and of the national officers, Bureau managers, departments and committees, conferences, state presidents and local associations will all be found in this volume.

REGIONAL PLANNING IN THE UNITED STATES. Published by the American Civic Association, Inc., Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C. Price, 10c

This little pamphlet contains a summary by Thomas Adams of the progress of regional planning in the United States and a report of the conference on Regional Planning of the American Civic Association held at Niagara, N. Y. in November, 1928.

PAPER AND SCISSORS IN THE SCHOOLROOM. By Emily Weaver. Published by Milton Bradley Company, Springfield, Massachusetts. Price 50c.

This book is planned to give a practical course in paper cutting and folding for all school grades. Playground workers who are interested in promoting this form of handcraft will find the book suggestive.

PLAN BOOK FOR THE BOY BUILDER. Published by the Western Pine Manufacturers' Association, Portland, Oregon. Free

This pamphlet gives many suggestions for construction from white pine of such articles as bread boards, airplanes, weather vanes, bird houses, footstools, hanging bookcases, a dory, model sloop and similar articles.

WOODWORK PATTERNS. By Louise D. Tessin. Published by Milton Bradley Company, Springfield, Mass. Price, \$1.50

This very attractive book contains sixty-six patterns all in original size for making toys and practical crafts of simple design. The directions are so clear and the patterns so well worked out that they are readily usable.

FUN WITH PAPER FOLDING. By William D. Murray and Francis J. Rigney. Published by Fleming H. Revell Company, New York. Price, \$1.50

It is hard to believe that such an immense amount of enjoyment lies hidden in the surface of a perfectly plain square of white paper. Under the wizardry of this book, however, this same square becomes successively a Chinese "junk," a rooster that flaps its wings, a cake basket, a motor boat, a battleship, a dog, an airplane, and an almost unlimited number of objects.

While the book is intended primarily for children, adults will find much entertainment in making any of the articles suggested.

TWICE 55 PLUS COMMUNITY SONGS. Published by C. C. Birchard and Company, Boston, Massachusetts. Price, 15c.

This revision of *Twice 55 Community Songs* which has been so widely used by recreation workers, contains 175 songs with music. The eighty additional songs include not only some of the old favorites for which the text was printed alone in the preceding edition but also new folk songs, carols and hymns and some choruses which advanced choral groups may use.

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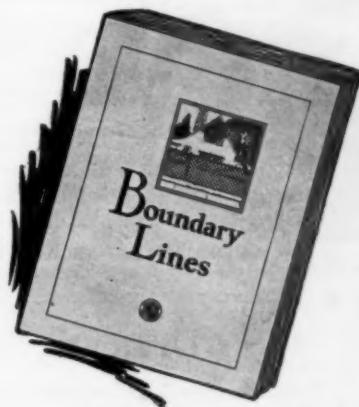


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of America

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FRETTED INSTRUMENT ORCHESTRAS. National Bureau for the Advancement of Music, 45 West 45th Street, New York City. Free

"It is easier to listen but it's fun to play." is the keynote of this attractively illustrated 100-page booklet which will serve as a guide to procedure in organizing and maintaining ensembles of banjos, mandolins, guitars and other plectrum instruments. The book will be of special interest to recreation workers, for the formation of fretted instrument groups—not merely ukulele clubs but informal ensembles with banjos, mandolins and guitars—is a very practicable project for a recreation system which is specializing to any extent in music. There are always capable local teachers of these instruments whose services can be had on part time at a very nominal fee. *Fretted Instrument Orchestras* gives complete suggestions for the organization of such groups. A copy of the book may be obtained without charge from the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music.

THE MAGIC OF BOOKS. Compiled and edited by A. P. Sanford and Robert Haven Schauffler. Published by Dodd, Mead and Company, New York. Price, \$2.00

This anthology, which has been prepared for use in connection with Book Week, contains a delightful collection of some of the best things which have been said or written about books. This material has been classified under the following headings: *The Fun of Books*; *How to Read*; *The Story of Paper and Printing*; *In the Library*, and *What Books Can Do For Us*. In addition there are three stories and three plays and a pageant appropriate for production during book week. A section addressed to parents and teachers suggests ways of interesting children in books and of developing a love of reading. The final section has to do with *Projects and Programs* and gives some helpful book lists.

PLEASE COME TO MY PARTY. By Bertha M. Hamilton. Published by Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Massachusetts. Price, \$1.75

Here is a party book which will delight boys and girls because the suggestions are given in narrative form. Mothers will enjoy it because each of the twelve parties given, one for each month, is planned completely, details being given for the making of invitations, the scheme of the party, the games and activities, the prizes, the table decorations, the refreshments—and all achieved at slight expense.

BASKETBALL GUIDE AND OFFICIAL RULES, 1929-30. Spalding's Athletic Library. No. 700X. American Sports Publishing Company, New York. Price, 25c

Fifteen years ago the Amateur Athletic Union, International Y. M. C. A. and National Collegiate Athletic Association, organized a joint basketball rules committee. Since that time basketball has grown with tremendous rapidity. The part played by the joint committee in this growth has been that of developing out of numerous and varied playing codes, a single set of rules governing the game. With very few exceptions, basketball games throughout the world are now played under these rules.

Regarding the Rochester Survey

In the October issue of PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION mention was made of the survey of recreational facilities made in Rochester, New York. Those interested in obtaining copies will want to know that the survey may be secured for \$2.00

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President Hoover's Message
to the Recreation
Congress

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON.

Oct. 12, 1929.

Mrs. Eugene Meyer,
Seven Springs Farm,
Mount Kisco, N. Y.

My Dear Mrs. Meyer:

I am deeply interested in the problem of recreation, as its solution goes to the root not only of many fundamental questions of physical health, but also of many needs for mental stimulation and spiritual satisfactions. A national program is needed, and the conference at Louisville can be of great service in its consideration.

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT HOOVER.